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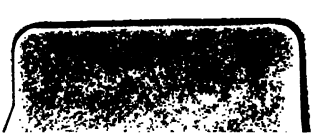

THE

HAUNTED PALACE,

OR THE

Horrors of Ventoliene.

THE

HAUNTED PALACE,

OR THE

Horrors of Ventoliene;

A ROMANCE,

By Mrs. YORKE,

AUTHOR OF

Valley of Collares, Romance of Smyrna, &c. &c. &c.

Fra cento affanni e cento
Palpito, tremo, e sento
Che freddo dalle vene
Fugge il mio sangue al cor.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

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THE

HAUNTED PALACE,

OR

The Horrors of Ventoliene.

AS soon as the company returned to the hotel, they were all anxious to learn each other's sentiments of what they had seen. All expressed their wonder and amazement; but none more so than the captain, as he had been led to expect a very different ceremony. The sacrifices which had been made the time before, when he was there, he thought would be repeated, with

some more awful ceremonies. He wished to learn from the father, why it was omitted, though it gave him great pleasure to hope he should never see it performed again. The father said, He hoped so too, and he was extremely happy in the idea that those whom he trembled for, a fortnight ago, had so agreeably disappointed him; "as that ceremony," said he, "is never performed, but when a member is, by his perseverance in vice, entered on the black list.

"That sacrifice is their sacrament, and, by the laws which were instituted in the infancy of this society, the officiating priests, though repugnant to their natures, are obliged to comply, if a member insists on being one of the black associates. Each brother of the white is obliged to drink of the bowl; but from that moment, they are sworn enemies, and it is the business of each to

to counteract the designs of the other. If the number of the black exceed that of the white, a thousand schemes are invented and put into practice, to harrass and distress them. Nothing, that demonical wickedness can devise, but what is tried to effect their purpose, and lead the good, by the most artful means, into the commission of deeds, which, when once perpetrated, they know will prevent their return to their former friends. Hence those crimes, which have so recently caused the death of the five members we saw to-night; their being taken off in one year, has lessened their power, and the unexpected seceding of the brothers now with us, will enable the white to complete their good intentions, respecting the dead at Ventoliene, which, it was prophesied many years ago, would be accomplished, when a parricide, and destroyer of the nearest ties of nature,

should be his own murderer, in the presence of him he had most materially injured, and as soon as his soul had taken its final flight, then might the remains of the innocent be collected, and put to rest for ever; the vicious should become virtuous, and the power of God be made manifest.

"By the death of Owen, this prophecy is fulfilled; the dreadful sights we witnessed there were occasioned by the evil spirits, that attend on the black members, who are perpetually counteracting any design that militates against their own evil propensities. Their power is now effectually humbled; and I trust and hope, when a final division is made of your property, that there will not be one among you, but will rejoice at what you have seen to night, and again become useful members of society. The Prince Bononi has,

through

through accident, been made sensible of his errors, and will in future be an honor to his high birth. He possessed many virtues, but they were obscured by his follies. Three months ago, he was at the head of the sable list. He got wounded in a scuffle, among his profligate companions, who were attempting to carry off a lady from a convent. The danger he lay in for three weeks, the pain he suffered, and the good counsel of Father Theodore, altogether wrought the happy revolution you have this night witnessed, which every one who loves virtue must rejoice at, as he has now the power of doing as much good, as he had before of doing ill.

"There is none here," continued he, "I flatter myself, at present, but what will in future make the conduct of the prince his guide and director. He

will find more real felicity in innocent and social pleasures, than in all the gratifications found in the lap of licentious riot. The one brings permanent satisfaction in its train, the other a momentary enjoyment, which, upon the least reflection, to a sensible mind, plants daggers in the breast, that cannot be drawn, without plunging deeper into vice and folly. You must all prepare to return early in the day; I shall be ready to attend you."

The father then retired to rest. Price came forward to the captain, with an expression on his countenance, that plainly indicated a sincere abhorrence of his former life. The captain took him by the hand, and congratulated him on his contrition; Price was much affected. Parlati and Guiverat advanced—the same good omens were observable on the face of each; they all

all thanked the captain and Fitzallan for their former kindness to them, and begged their future protection and advice. This was promised. It was then agreed they should set off in the same manner they had come; which was to be early on the next day. They did, and arrived at Naples in safety.

Fitzallan immediately went to see Michael, whom he found recovering fast. He recollected his master, but was not collected enough to arrange any ideas of what had passed. The physician assured Edward, that a short time would perfect his cure. He waited some time for the return of the father and Joseph, who had been to see Vashti. She was still very ill; a rooted melancholy had taken possession of her mind, and the faculty despaired of ever removing it. She seemed for a moment happy at the sight of Joseph;

and, when he told her he should reside near Florence, a glow of pleasure passed across her cheek, but she presently sunk again into her former despondency. The heart of Joseph was wrung with distress; he loved his wife with the tenderest affection, and, when he regarded her as lost to him for ever, the poor fellow's feelings were poignantly awakened. Father Gregory endeavoured to persuade him, that she would recover; he led him to hope every thing, and as his presence seemed to give her pleasure, he said he would dispense with his attendance at Ventoliene.

The remainder then departed, and entered the palace, by the usual way in the wood. As they went along, they were agreeably surprised to hear the soft music, that charmed them in the park; the father hailed it, as a presage

of

of peace. When they came into the great hall, they found every thing as they had left it. After taking some refreshment, the father asked them Whether they would search on that day, or the next, it being equal to him; they chose the latter. Some of them were apprehensive of being again visited by the fiends; but this, father Gregory assured them, would not be the case. Price and Parlati were under trepidation; but, on the captain's promising they should not be left alone, their fears decreased, and they went to rest in confidence.

The next day, the captain, father Gregory, and Edward, called them all together in the hall, and read to them their instructions, which were, to go on the first, second, or third sound of the music they should hear after their return, to that part of the palace they

had explored, at the time it fell in. They were to cause a certain space of the wall to be taken down, and, whatever they might find there, was to be collected and buried in a part of the cemetry, belonging to the chapel of the palace. They were to follow the steps of any form they might see, and, at whatever place it might stop, or disappear, they were to dig, and the bones, if they discovered any, were to be taken up, and buried in another part of the cemetry, over which a monument was to be erected. The remains of Owen were to be taken from where they were laid, and deposited in that precise spot the others should be taken from. A statuary, to make the monument, should be sent from Naples, in ten days after their arrival, by which time, the prince hoped every thing would be completed. The artist would likewise bring with him an architect, who would have

have orders to repair the chapel, to take down and remove those parts of the palace, which were too bad to be rendered habitable, and to put the remainder into a state of the most perfect repair. It was to be done without the least delay; when finished, the prince would visit them.

They were in the midst of conversation, when they heard the music, as if floating over their heads. They looked with earnest expectation of seeing the lovely form they had beheld before in the ruins; but nothing was visible. The sounds seemed veering to the south entrance; they followed it, and found it go before them, from the south angle, over the ruins, in the great court, to a broken flight of stairs, which were in too bad a state to admit of their ascending them. While they were pausing in what manner they

should get up, the sounds seemed stationary. Fitzallan proposed getting a ladder, and ascend that way. They did, and found themselves in the very apartment they had come up to before from the rooms below, when they were involved in the strange dilemma. They drew up the ladder after them, and used it as a descent to poor Michael's woman-horse, which he had so grievously bestrode. Close by it lay the cursed great bunch of flowers, as he termed them. Those that were present then laughed at the recollection of the poor fellow's disaster.

The music still played a soft and plaintive air. When they were all down, those who had not seen that part before stopped to admire the beautiful fragments that lay around, each one wondering it should have been left to perish

perish in such a rueful manner, as they must have belonged to a most magnificent apartment. They would have continued much longer turning over this piece of mutilated grandeur, and tossing over that, had they not been roused by the loud strains of the music, which sounded in full key, along the roofs of the empty apartments, that led from the room they were in. The captain said; "We are summoned, father, "pray lead on." They went first, the rest closely followed, the music still becoming louder and more brilliant. They entered the room, in which they had seen the ladies before. Fitzallan and the father endeavoured to mark out that part of the wall to which they had pointed.

They had placed themselves near the centre of the room, and upon the spot where they had observed the first vanish.

vanish. They turned, to answer some question put to them by one of the company, when they saw the very lady standing between them. She seemed to fix her eyes full upon the father; her whole frame trembled, and her countenance displayed a kind of horror. She threw up a small veil that shaded part of her face, and in an apparent agony, pointed to the wall; the music all the time playing the most loud and harmonious strains. Her hand continued near half a minute pointing to it, her eyes all the time rivetted on the father. As her hand gradually dropped, she uttered a deep and hollow groan; then raised her hands, clasped towards heaven, and, in an instant, when the whole form bore the semblance of a corporeal substance, it appeared a mutilated skeleton, the right hand being cut off at the wrist. It then moved slowly a small distance, and vanished.

They

They marked the spot where they then stood, and the one she pointed to in the wall. The whole of the company were not in the room at the time —only thirty of them; the rest, with the captain, were exploring the other apartments; but all present had seen it, among whom was Price, whose terror, on seeing the transition from the lady to the skeleton, beggared all description. His hair lifted up—his eyes seemed starting from their sockets —his mouth and nostrils were extended —and his whole body appeared convulsed. He caught hold of the father's arm, saying, "Blessed Lord! this is worse and worse." They comforted and earnestly begged him to be more the man; for his fear would only serve to intimidate others, and, as they were enjoined to complete what they had begun, it was a folly for any one to draw back, as none would receive any personal

personal injury, unless what their own fears occasioned. At this expostulation he strove to gain courage sufficient to assist in raising up the floor, while some of the others were making an aperture in the wall.

They were thus employed, when the captain, with the remainder of the company, came into the outer room, following a beautiful young lady, the same he had seen before. He beckoned the father and the rest of them to notice her. She entered the room they were in, advanced to the spot they were raising, and, with a heavenly smile, pointed to the wall. She then walked slowly back to the outer apartment. They followed, and, in a moment, she appeared in the room above, looking down.

When they came to place the ladder

to

to descend the stairs on the other side, she was seen going down them, without any apprehension of their falling. They descended and followed her to the park. She was seen at a distance making towards the lake; they pursued her steps. The music was again heard; but, instead of one, various instruments seemed playing in concert. It was nothing that resembled mortal sounds, but something that lulled the senses into a pleasing melancholy. The fair vision took the east walk to the lake: she paused near the middle of the side, then lifted up her hands in an attitude of prayer near a minute, and, as they drew nearer, she dropped them; took a handkerchief and bound about her head, but in such a manner as to cover the upper part of the face; then plunged into the lake.

They had by this time advanced

close

close to the spot from whence she disappeared. They rushed directly to the edge of the water, but could not discover any thing; the surface was perfectly smooth. The music ceased. They instantly placed up some short poles, and got the necessaries to drag the lake at that place. The whole of the party were present. They toiled near three hours, without being able, for weeds, to get to the bottom, and were going to give it up, and look upon it as a delusion of fancy, when the same lovely form was seen to rise three times out of the water, and sink again. One of the company, who held a lead in his hand, fastened to a cord, proposed to throw it in, to mark the precise spot. That done they went round to the other side, and fetched a little boat, which enabled two of them to assist the drag. The lead they had thrown in directed them, and, after a few efforts,

efforts, they found the drag impeded. They put down a long boat hook, and brought up a large wooden box, long, and very shallow.

When they had got it on shore, they opened it, and discovered the body of a lady, whose person the fair spirit exactly resembled. She was in the same dress in which she appeared to them; and round her head, and half over her face, so as to cover a small way below her eyes, was tied a silk handkerchief, embroidered at the corners with gold, in a cypher L. P. A. The body was not in the least injured by lying in the water. A large quantity of lead had been placed in the box, which was of English oak. That, they supposed, occasioned the obstacles they had met with in raising it. "I am happy," said father Gregory, "to think you did not give up the search. I

would

would pledge my life, that those who placed the lovely sufferer here little thought she would be brought up again. Would to God I knew who was thy murderer!"

They prepared to take it to the palace. The corse was carried to the great hall, and some of them set about making a proper coffin, which was not completed until late in the day, owing to the unskillfulness of the workmen. As soon as done, they put the body into it, wrapped in a silk coverlid of a bed, instead of a winding sheet; they fastened down the lid, and the father said, He thought it best to let the body remain, till they could procure an inscription to be placed upon the coffin, stating in what manner she was found.

They had finished about five minutes, when the music was heard again, as if directly

directly over the coffin. They listened to it with delight, and even Price seemed to have forgot his terrors, and heard it with a great degree of pleasure. When they were refreshed, the father proposed going again to the ruins, to complete their search; as, he said, he could not rest in peace, till he had finished his charge. They were all as anxious as himself, and none but Price shewed the least fear.

They descended again to the ruins, and began again their work. Price kept close to the captain, and watched with the utmost anxiety all his motions. They took off the flooring of the room, but nothing could be discovered. The wall was at length opened, but with a deal of difficulty; it appeared as if the stones had been cemented with bitumen, they were so close bound together. When they had opened a space

space large enough to admit a person entering, the father ascended, and found an opening, like a large closet. He entered it, and did not observe any thing. It was dark; the captain got in, and Edward; but they could not see any object. They desired candles to be brought, which were handed to them; and in an instant, discovered the skeleton of a woman, without the right hand. This they immediately concluded to be the remains of the lady they had seen.

Upon examining the space, they found it to be a large square closet, of rough hewn stone on all sides; the roof of the same, without the least appearance of any opening. How the body could be placed in such a situation, was a mystery they knew not how to solve, unless she had been put in, and the wall closed up afterwards. But

why

why a corse should be put so near to a suite of apartments, which had evidently been appropriated to pleasure, puzzled them exceedingly; and why laid there, without any of those external marks of kindness ever shewn to the dead, bewildered them in conjecture. No cross, no winding sheet, no coffin, nor any insignia, which might be supposed due to the meanest being. "Sure," said Fitzallan, "this mortal must have been either detested for her crimes, or nearly as ill used as that dear object we have raised from her watery tomb. But, whatever it might be that caused her being immured here in so strange a manner, I think, father, it is not wrong to suppose something extraordinary occasioned it; and I heartily wish we could unravel it. When my curiosity is excited, I am never at rest until it is gratified. Now how amusing it would be to have an Eng-

lish

lish old maid here at this moment, to hear the various conjectures she would form upon the subject, and how impatient she would be to spread her own opinions of the matter!"

Edward spoke this in a careless manner, in order to encourage Price, who began again to be in just such a trepidation as before. It had the desired effect; he cheered up, and pretended not to be in the least hurt. The captain and Fitzallan drew the bones out, and laid them on the floor. "Are we to search for any more such mementos of mortality?" said one of the men to the captain, "or are we to stop here and not search further?" "Oh God, I hope so," said Price; "though I think we may as well go and search the place under the chappel, and make a judgment day of it at once. By the Lord of Heaven, if I had thought so many dead

dead bodies had been dispersed all over this monstrous vile place, I am sure I should not have been able to stir an inch. That it should all happen to come out at this present time, seems mighty odd. O Lord, Lord! I would not live in the palace again, if the prince would give me his whole revenue." "Nor I neither," said the father; "I have that hope and faith in your conversion, that induces me to think your life, in future, will never occasion your witnessing such scenes again." "Amen, father," said Price.

They now debated, in what manner to dispose of the bones. One of those who had assisted to make the coffin, said, he thought it better to let them lie there till they had made another, then to carry them into the great hall; especially, as they were not to be buried together. "Very true," said father

Gregory; "for, if I mistake not, (looking earnestly at the arm-bone from which the hand was gone,) this woman, whoever she was, must have been a state criminal." "Why do you think so?" asked the captain; "Because, if you observe, the bone of the arm is not perfect at the bottom; it appears as if an inch of it had been taken off by an axe."

They all looked, and found it true. "Good God!" said the captain, "then this, in all probability, is the remains of Vashti's mother. She was taken up, you know, and, I believe, tried; but her fate, from that hour, was never known. It was generally supposed she was privately put to death. If that should be the case, she must have been condemned to lose her right hand, before she suffered the coup-de-grace. But, why they should place her body here, I cannot

not think. These were her apartments, I am certain." "I think I have heard Joseph say so," said the father; "and she must have been immured alive in that dreadful recess. The poor fellow said, when he saw her, that she resembled the picture of Vashti's mother, which he must have frequently seen. What argues more strongly for it, is, the orders given at the time the palace was destroyed, that it should begin on that part of the mansion first, which was accordingly done; and, if you observe, those very apartments were supposed to be destroyed. For my part, I always believed so, till the day we met with that terrible disaster."

"Terrible indeed," said Price; "for, I believe all the devils in hell came out then to keep holiday. They made rout enough that is certain." "Poor wretched sinful woman!" said the father;

"if this should be thy remains, for the sake of thy unhappy offspring, we will pay thee that respect, which, without that claim, we might have denied thee." The captain asked the father, If he would make any farther search? He said, No; he thought there was no occasion, as he had executed the orders they had received. One part of the company then went to prepare a coffin, while the others went to take up the remains of Owen, and sink them in the lake. This they effected in two hours: they then dug the grave agreeably to the directions.

The father and captain had gone, during the latter employ, to Edward's room, to which he went previous to Owen's being taken up. The father sketched an account in what manner the youug lady had been taken out of the lake, and mentioned the letters on the

the handkerchief. They debated for some time, whether it would be best to send it to Naples, to be engraved on a plate, to fasten on the lid of the coffin, or to write it on parchment, and place it there. At length, the latter was fixed on, as they feared, if it was sent to be engraved, the singular occurrence it related might excite the curiosity of the artist.

They were soon summoned to attend those who had been at work below. The father found every thing executed agreeably to his wishes. They thought it best to pay the last duties to the lady first. When they had placed the parchment on the lid, a thought struck them, that the earth, or damps, might possibly destroy the writing, unless they could think of something to prevent the earth falling upon it. After a little contriving,

they nailed over it a thin plate of brass: this being done, and the coffin fastened down, they carried it to the grave. The spot pointed out in the instructions happened to be an arched vault, supposed to be where some of the family had been deposited. On the sleepers in this vault they laid, with the usual ceremonies, in which all the members joined, the remains of this once lovely flower; but, just as the father had pronounced the last words, the cemetery was illuminated in a moment, as if ten thousand tapers had been brought in. The light dazzled and brought to Price's remembrance the scene near Bononi. His fears were visible; he seemed to dread every thing.

The father proceeded; the same heavenly music and seraphic voices repeated the responses; and, when the ceremony closed, they sung, "I know

that

that my Redeemer, &c." The whole company, as if by some secret impulse, joined the general chorus. The voices and the music died gradually away; the glorious blaze of light disappeared by degrees, and left them lost in wonder and amazement.

When they had a little recovered themselves, they went back to the great room, and took a large sheet to wrap the bones in, as well as the coffin, and hastened to complete their work. They took the skeleton up, wrapped it, as well as they were able, in the sheet, and laid it in the coffin, then closed it, and wrote on parchment, like the other, these words: "Within are deposited the bones of an unknown woman, found immured in a stone recess, on the south side of the palace, the 16th of March, one thousand seven hundred and——." They fastened it down,

and took it to its resting place, where the father offered up his prayers for the repose of her soul. The burial ceremony he performed in the same manner as the other; but no music was heard, no heavenly light appeared; all was silent as the grave.

When they returned through the body of the chapel, the father knelt down, and offered up his thanks to heaven, for having finally completed the work they were enjoined. They then once more assembled in the great room, and prepared their suppers to which they sat down, with that confidence and pleasure beaming in their eyes, which the consciousness of doing good ever diffuses over the frame. Fatigued with the labor of six-and-thirty hours, they retired to rest. A week after, the statuary and architect arrived, when a survey was taken, and,

in

in a few days, workmen came to set about the repairs. Father Gregory had written to Bononi, and waited only for orders for their return.

As Edward began to be very uneasy at his not receiving any account from England, he earnestly desired the father to hasten his departure from Ventoliene, that he might be at liberty to return to his family. The captain also wished to be at Florence, as he was desirous to see his brother, and finally settle the affairs of the community; which could be soon done, if the prince chose it. However, in a few days, when the father expected letters from the prince, he arrived himself, and expressed the highest satisfaction of every thing that had been done. The day after his arrival, he was informed by the father of the wishes of the captain and Fitzallan to return to their families.

The prince said, It should be complied with, as he had orders from the brothers at Bononi, to settle every thing. Those who chose to leave the society, were at full liberty to do so, and at Florence they would receive their share of the general stock. The captain and Fitzallan begged leave to decline the parts allotted for them, and desired that fathers Gregory and Theodore would accept it, to dispose of in the manner they should think fit.

The prince said, It was his intention to have the palace put in complete repair, and to make it the occasional residence of himself and as many of the members as should not choose to enter into the world again, and to form it into a sort of religious society, of which father Theodore, or father Gregory, should be the superior. This gave a great degree of pleasure to all, and the prince,

prince, who was become a sincere convert, was extremely happy to hear that the greater part of the community would chose to stay, saying, that their property should become one general stock, and be placed in the bank of Naples, for their mutual support. He agreed to let them have the whole produce of the rich domain, as long as any of the members should be living; and, if the allotted part of those who went out was inadequate to their wants, to place them in situations to gain a subsistence suitable to their birth, they should receive whatever was farther necessary from him. They all thanked him for his generosity.

He soon found, that out of one hundred and twenty, only thirty-six chose to go, (including the captain and Fitzallan) and seventeen of those desired permission to return and close

their life there, if circumstances should combine to prevent their settling in the world, agreeably to their wishes. This was readily acceded to. Among those who meant to stay, were Price, Parlati, and Guiverat. The prince paid particular attention to them, and said, He hoped he should soon have the pleasure of seeing them some of the most happy of the brothers, in a state of sincere repentance.

All this being settled, the father, the captain, the prince, and Edward, agreed to return to Naples, and from thence to Florence, as the father, before he made up his mind to reside at Ventoliene, chose to return, and see his son, and the amiable Genevieve. Fitzallan rejoiced in the idea of being once more at liberty, and the captain felt a glow of pleasure from the same source. Though he was happy in being liberated at that time

time, yet, a few minutes before he quitted them, he made the same request as the seventeen others had done, being certain that, as his dearest hopes had been blasted, he should never enjoy a sufficient share of felicity in the world, to induce him, young as he was, to continue in it. He found, in spite of every effort to the contrary, the image of Mrs. Brisac too deeply rooted in his bosom, to be eradicated by any other object whatever; and, as he never could hope to be blessed with her, he was determined to return, as soon as he had seen his brother, and arranged with him the manner in which his income was to be remitted. He had an ardent wish also to see his father once more, to receive his blessing, and to quit him for ever. Under these impressions, he took leave of the community, as did Fitzallan, the prince, and the father,

father, all promising to visit them, as soon as the palace should be finished.

When they arrived at Naples, Edward went to see Michael; he was gathering strength daily. His master informed him, that he must endeavour to get well, for he was about to return to England, and only waited for him. The intelligence seemed to have more effect than all the medicine in the world could have done; and, when his master promised to see him often, the poor fellow was nearly mad again with joy. This gave Edward the greatest pleasure, and he returned to the hotel in high spirits.

In the mean time, the father and the captain had been to visit Joseph, whom they found in tolerable spirits, as his wife was getting better. His being near her had contributed much to

to her repose, and the physician gave him hopes that time would perfectly restore her. They felt a happiness at this quite unexpected information; they gave Joseph an account of what had been done, and that, on his wife's recovery, he would be at liberty either to return to the palace, or remain at Naples. The father thought it best for him to come and pay his respects to the prince. He accordingly went to the hotel for that purpose; his highness received him with great marks of condescension, and said, He much pitied the state of his wife, and desired that she might be supplied with every thing necessary in her situation. He gave him a purse to defray his present expences, and bid him draw on him for what he might want in future.

Soon after Joseph had taken leave, and they were in earnest conversation respect-

respecting Vashti, the prince said, He did not wonder at her illness, as he was pretty certain she had been informed that the spirit of her mother wandered on the domain, and that she had been seen among those fiends that tormented them in the pavilion. "Does your highness then think," said the father, "that the skeleton we found in the wall was that of her mother?" "Yes," he answered; "I know it to be so; and, as that affair seems to excite your curiosity, I will tell you all that I am acquainted with concerning it."

"When the ruined palace, with its estate, was granted by the crown to my uncle, the cardinal, he proposed to pull down the remaining part of it, and build on the scite a noble mansion for himself. With this intention, he visited Ventoliene, attended with proper people, to make a survey of the whole

whole. A few hours after he had arrived, a violent tempest came on and prevented his return to Naples; they were obliged to take up their lodging for that night at the palace. His eminence had laid down upon a bed about an hour, when he was surprised by the appearance of a woman entering his room. The attendants did not observe her; she stood at the side of the bed, and beckoned him to follow her. He had not taken off his clothes; and, from the violence of the storm, and the broken slumbers he had, he imagined it to be a delusion of the brain. As the lights in the room seemed to be obscured, he thought it a dream, and turned on the other side. He had not lain long in that position, when the whole apartment was apparently in a blaze. Thinking that the lightning had set fire to it, he started up, and was attempting to leave the room, when he

he found the lady stand between him and the door. He asked her, Why she did not escape, and permit him to do so, from the fire that seemed to surround them? She made no answer, but beckoned him to follow her. The two pages that waited in the room, and those without, were in a profound sleep. He attempted to wake them, but his voice was not heard. He desired the lady to quit the room; she made no answer, but by signs requested him to follow. She advanced towards the door, and he pursued her steps. He thought she passed through several apartments, but his fright prevented him from noticing the different turnings. At last, she stopped, and, pointing to a small cabinet, that stood amidst a heap of ruins, said, "Search, find, read, and remember," then vanished, and left him in total darkness.

The

"The astonishment of his eminence may be easily conjectured. He had no belief in supernatural appearances; but how to account for the lady's sudden departure, he knew not. He was certain she did not quit the room by the entrance, as he stood in it. He strove to make somebody hear, by hallooing for lights; but nobody came, and he remained in that state of darkness for full seven hours. He strove, by every means in his power, to find his way out; but the more he sought, the more he was bewildered: and at last, giving himself up for lost, he sat down upon the floor, in the utmost despondency. He had remained thus near half an hour, when he heard the voices of his domestics at some distance. Overjoyed, he jumped up, and again called for them. They heard him, and, following the sound, found they must remove a great heap of rubbish.

bish, before they could get to him. It was near an hour before they effected it. The surprise of every one was extreme, to find his eminence alone, in a room without light, and surrounded with heaps of broken furniture, and rubbish.

"He briefly related, how he got there, which spread amazement over all, as the way that led to the room he was in had been blocked up by a vast quantity of ruins, ever since that part of the mansion had been demolished. He pointed out the cabinet; the attendants took it up, and he ordered it to be carried to the apartment he had been in, when he wandered away, and which had not been on fire. He asked them why they had not answered when he spoke to them; they all said, they had not heard a single word; but that they had felt an uncommon drowsiness

ness creep over them, which they could not shake off; that, when they waked, and missed him, they had alarmed the rest, and sought him every where, but without success. At last, despairing of finding him at all, they agreed to go to the beach where he landed, and make enquiries; when, as they passed the south side, they heard his voice; and, as there was no way to direct them how they could get to him, they were obliged to remove the rubbish, and at length succeeded.

"It was with great difficulty they could get back again, but at last they did. His eminence had his own thoughts on what had happened, and his domestics had theirs; which wrought upon their imaginations in such a manner, that nothing could prevail upon them to stir one step alone. They were so importunate for him to quit the palace

palace, lest any more danger should happen to him, that he gave orders to leave it directly, without settling any thing respecting the building, they being all glad to get away. However, he ordered the cabinet to be taken with him, not in the least doubting but there were some papers contained in it of moment.

"When he got to Naples, and had rest and refreshment, he hastened to open it, and found a small manuscript, entitled The Confessions of Claudina. It began by relating her birth, and subsequent consequences of no great moment, till her fifteenth year, when she became a wife, and, from that hour, commenced her career in vice. She went on to relate the despicable light in which she regarded her husband; the numberless intrigues she had, with almost every young man of

fashion

fashion she saw. But her ambition aimed at captivating the second son of the King of Naples. She threw herself in his way; her charms attracted his notice; he caused offers to be made to her, which were accepted; and, lost to every sense of honor and virtue, she quitted her husband, and went to Ventoliene, in the character of his avowed mistress. Here she exercised unlimited power: the weak, and dissolute, prince saw but with her eyes, and acted but from her direction. She soon found the influence she had over him, and thought, if she could get her husband disposed of, he would be weak enough to marry her. Many schemes were planned for that purpose, but they all miscarried. Her husband was then in Piedmont, a war being expected. Her influence over the prince increased daily; but she was in continual dread lest any rival should supplant her till then, death, which,

"She had, at first coming to the Palace, found there a beautiful young lady, who had been, through the emissaries of the prince, decoyed thither; but he had not seen her, as she had been brought there during his absence. She was the only child of the widow of an officer, who had bred her up in the tenderest manner, and bestowed upon her the most liberal education. This beautiful flower had been seen by some wretches employed by the prince, and, despairing of gaining her by money, (her mother being a woman of the strictest principles,) they caused her to be watched; and, one day, on her return from a visit, they contrived to get her into their power. This was a short time previous to Claudina's coming. She had been informed of it; and, when she arrived, ordered her to bring me to her; but the lady refused. had, with alm

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"Fired with resentment at her refusal, and dreading the power of her charms, she had caused her to be poisoned, and her remains thrown into the lake. The lady, at the time of Claudina's arrival, was in the pavilion, in the park, to which she went, when she found the prince's mistress was come; and, upon her desiring an orange might be sent her, Claudina artfully contrived to draw a needle, dipped in the most deadly poison, through it, and caused it, with some other fruit, to be sent her. The lady ate, and, in about three hours, was no more. Claudina had ordered a fellow that had served her in many diabolical schemes, to watch the lady; and, as soon as he saw her dead, he was to get her body sunk in the lake, and give out she had made her escape. This he effected, but not till two days after her death, as he could not get a box till then,

when, in the night of the second day, he caused the box to be brought to the side of the lake. He then carried the body to the spot, and, by the help of Claudina, who met him in the park, he plunged it into the water.

"Not long after this, she caused the fellow to be accused of some crime; and, during his confinement, when she went to visit him, under pretence of bringing him his pardon, she found means to give him some of the same poison she had given the lady. When he was dead, she thought herself secure. Soon after, despairing of taking off her husband, she had caused him to be accused of crimes against the state he served: which happened at the very crisis, when she was engaged in drawing in several young noblemen to plan a scheme of revolt against the King of Naples, in order to pave the way

way for the prince's ascending the throne; but it had been discovered, and herself, with the prince and his companions, had been taken up, tried, and found guilty. What the sentence was against them, she knew not; her's was, to lose her right hand, then to be taken to the palace, and kept on bread and water, till it was ascertained whether she was pregnant or not.

"As soon as that was proved, she was to be immured alive in a stone vault, fitted for the purpose, in the wall of her dressing room, where an astrologer had told her, that her bones would remain, till the innocent victim she had thrown into the lake should be taken up, and the space her body had occupied was filled up with the cursed remains of a parricide. He further told her, that till her remains were committed to the earth, none but the most abandoned of

men should reside in the palace; for, the curse of the innocent would rest upon the place. She had written that with her left hand, as the first part of the sentence had been executed on her, and she was in daily expectation of the remainder. She earnestly begged the prayers of those who might find the writing, for her miserable soul; that it might not continue among the damned.

"There was something more added to it, but I forget what. It was something about a handkerchief, that was tied over the lady's eyes, which I suppose to be the one you found; but what it meant I believe his eminence could not make out. After he had perused this with repeated attention, he resolved to abandon all thoughts of repairing the palace, or building another; and the servants who had been with him

him magnified the adventure to such an extraordinary pitch, that every person that heard of it verily believed it was the den of devils, and not fit for any mortal to reside in. However, the man, who was Joseph's father, and his family, who had the care of it, previous to the grant to my uncle, agreed to continue on it as before.

"When I returned from my studies to Florence, his eminence made me a grant of the domain: to what purpose I appropriated it, you know. We are now, I hope, sensible of our follies, and I have most sincerely to ask the captain's pardon, for sending him there. I thought it then a famous exploit, and enjoyed the idea of your confusion, when you found yourself among those, who feared neither ghosts, devils, nor men; but this season of vice and folly was soon over.

"Some time after that event, some of my companions had been to see a nun professed, and, among the novices, had discovered one that had charmed him. He was bent on possessing her; for, to all our party, to like, and to get into our power, was the same thing. We found, upon enquiry, that she was the third daughter of the Duke de B. and, like many other females, was obliged by her unfeeling family to enter upon her noviciate, totally contrary to her inclinations. Here was a fine field open for quixotism, and we determined, at all events, to rescue those charms from the gripe of insatiable monks. Full of this exploit, we immediately set about devising the means; but we found it more difficult than we expected. But the more obstacles we met with, the more we determined to accomplish it. We learnt that one of the lady's brothers, who was abroad, was unknown

to

to the prioress. This brother, one of our party personated; and the young lady was permitted to see him in the parlour. Here he gave her a letter, and as soon as it was delivered, took his leave, promising to call on her the next day. The contents were such as you may suppose an enterprising young man would say, to induce her to elope with him, and my name was made use of, as the ostensible person.

"He went the next day, when she gave him her answer. She thanked me for my intentions respecting her, but ultimately declined accepting my offer. After a fortnight debating, we found means at last to silence all her scruples, and to consent to go off with us, the eve of the festival of St. Agatha, the patron saint of the convent, which would be in three days. Two of us were to get in, while the prioress was

engaged with the nuns. When in, they were to secret themselves in the garden till night, then be at a certain part of it; and the remainder, on the outside, were to throw over a rope ladder, which those inside were to fasten beneath.

"Every thing succeeded to our wishes, and we had got a league on the journey, when we were stopped at the barrier, and challenged; refusing to give a direct answer, we were not permitted to pass. Fearful of being pursued, we attempted to force our way; a scuffle ensued; one of the guard being wounded, gave the alarm; this made us desperate, and we all fought with fury. In the contest I received two wounds on my head, one on my arm, and a fourth laid me on the earth, senseless. At the moment when I fell, he who had charge of the lady got her off, through the hurry and confu

sion,

sion, though he was wounded in the side, and bleeding fast. He walked with her to a house, a short distance from the scene of action, where, for a sum of money, he got assistance, changed his clothes, and those of the lady, and set off again. She was conveyed in safety to France.

"In the mean time, I was pronounced in the utmost danger. The whole of our party, except the lady and gentleman, were secured; and, as they had made their escape, without it being known that they had been with us, we that were taken, were supposed to be all, and were not even suspected of carrying her off. As soon as she was missed, every possible search was made, but without effect; and, as every one of our party had been wounded, more or less, the affair was regarded as a frolic, and no notice was taken after

the first few days. The centinels were rewarded for their vigilance, but condemned for not being first sure who we were, before they engaged; but the whole, by the interference of the cardinal, was soon settled.

"The surgeon still gave me no hopes of recovery; the wound on my arm baffled all their skill, and a mortification was expected. This information awoke me to a full sense of the folly I had been guilty of, and every unjust or vicious action then arose against me. My heart was not wholly depraved; I had suffered myself to be led by fashion into all the crimes and follies incident to the gratification of headstrong passions; I ran into vice, without considering what it might lead me to; but when eternity seemed expanding before me, I became at once sensible of my errors, and severely condemned myself. What

What I had caused to be done to you was not the least in my thoughts. I wished to live, that I might have an opportunity of convincing you how much I felt for having done it.

"I was ignorant of the fate of the lady. I would have given half my fortune to have had her restored to the convent; but, as not the least mention was made of the affair, I did not think it proper to ask any questions, as, in case of my death, which I saw was expected, I might lay under the censures of the church. However, I, at last, ventured to make my confessor acquainted with it; from him I received those reproofs his sacred character enjoined him to give me; he convinced me of the enormity of my offences, and implored pardon and forgiveness for me. Seeing me sincere in my sorrow, and thoroughly sensible of my errors,

he bid me hope for salvation, and, to set my mind at rest, promised to find out the lady, and have her restored to her friends; but, till that could be done, he should take care that nothing transpired. He promised likewise to address a letter to you at Ventoliene, claiming your forgiveness for me. This was a few hours before an operation was performed on my arm, which, contrary to every expectation, had the desired effect, and my life was preserved. From that hour, I have lived totally different. My conversion, (if you may give it that name,) was made known to the elders at Bononi; my name was erased from the black list, and I had the happiness of receiving the white ivory.

"I was but recently recovered, when an account came of the death of Owen, and the subsequent circumstances. I looked up with gratitude to heaven,

for

for having drawn me from the society of those, who, in a very short time, would have led me to the commission of crimes, that might have brought on a death like his. I rejoiced in the idea of my emancipation from vice, and determined to be the direct reverse of what I had hitherto been. I can solemnly assure you, I enjoyed more satisfaction, the night I saw so many members clothed with the white robe, than in the gratification of all the unbridled passions of my life; and I am fully determined no future action of mine shall tarnish the good opinion the world entertains of me."

The narrative of the Prince ended; they all made their acknowledgments for it, and a general conversation ensued.

About an hour before they retired to rest,

rest, a messenger came with letters for the captain; and, to the great satisfaction of Edward, they were from England, brought by one of those charged with liberating Mrs. Owen, and the children. One was from that lady to her brother, another from Owen's mother, and a third from Mrs. Owen to the captain. She expressed the warmest gratitude for the generous interest he had evinced for her return to peace, and the society of those she esteemed. To her brother, it was nearly the same; but regretted much her deprivation of his company, as she had a deal to relate to him, and by letter she could not say what she wished, having suffered so much from hardships, that she was unable to hold the pen but for a few minutes at a time. She referred him to the bearer, for particulars of the state in which herself and children were found; and, though cruel as her husband

band had used her, she could not help lamenting his end. The elder Mrs. Owen's letter barely stated the satisfaction she felt in once more beholding her children; she earnestly entreated Fitzallan to return as soon as possible, for she much feared she had not long to live, as she was sinking fast with sorrow to the grave.

They apologized to the prince for reading their letters, and informed him who they came from, and stated some circumstances relative to Owen, which he was unacquainted with. He commiserated the sufferings of Mrs. Owen, and said, he would advise Edward to return to England with the utmost expedition, and console those who regarded him as their only friend. He said, he should pay a visit to that country himself soon; therefore, if there was any business, that he might, by a

sudden

sudden departure, leave undone, he would undertake to complete it, and give a good account of, at seeing him; "but," said he, "I think you had better see the messenger, who brought the letters; as he had the satisfaction of seeing your sister, and the children, it certainly will be requisite to hear from him how he found them."

The gentleman, on this, was desired by the prince to join them. After the usual ceremonies, Fitzallan was impatient to learn in what manner he had found Mrs. Owen. He said, He went, agreeably to his orders, to a house, near half a league from Caen. He enquired for the lady of it, to whom he was introduced, and delivered his order, which was to demand the immediate delivery of Mrs Owen and her children to him. She looked at the signature for a moment, then hesitated

to

to speak, and appeared very much confused; but, observing those that attended him were entering the room, she desired them to be seated, and said, Mrs. Owen should be with him presently; but the children were not then there; they, by the orders of Mrs. Owen, had been placed at the house of industry, as he did not choose to remit money for their board, and that there was a great deal due then for Mrs. Owen's, having been obliged to purchase wearing apparel for her.

"That is nothing to the purpose now," said I; "your demands will be paid, and I shall insist on seeing the lady directly, as I have express orders to see her on the instant of my arrival. I am not to stay while the lady's dress is changed, but see her in that she may have on at the time of my arrival; and I insist

I insist on going with you to her room this moment."

"Seeing it was of no use to refuse, she desired me to follow her into the garden, at the extremity of which were some small miserable rooms. In one of these, on a straw mattress, lay the lady; the clothes she had on were vile in the extreme, and her emaciated form plainly spoke that her diet had been equally as wretched. She rose up at our entrance, but was too weak to continue—she dropped back again. I darted a look of fury at the woman, and asked her, by whose orders Mrs. Owen had been left to perish in that cruel manner? She said, every thing had been done by the direction of her husband, Mr. Owen, and she thought no person had a greater right to do it, than he had.

"And you," replied I, "were unfeeling

ing enough to obey him exactly? Be it so; you shall answer for this in a proper place. Guard this woman," said I to two of those that came with me; "and do you," turning to the other three, "go and fetch a chair, that we may place the lady in it; she is too weak to stand." She turned her eyes towards me, with wonder and amazement; tried to speak, but could not. She seemed to wish for an explanation; I begged her not to be alarmed at any thing; I was only come to release her, and the children, from a state worse than death. At the mention of the children, she burst into tears, and said, though scarcely articulate, "do they still live?" I was kneeling beside her at the time; I assured her, they did, and hoped she would soon fold them to her bosom. This was too much for her debilitated mind to bear; she fainted, but soon recovered; I then placed

her

her in a sick chair, and assisted to carry her to the house; but, before I left the wretched hovel, I bid the two men not stir from the spot, or suffer any person to see, or speak to the woman, till I came back.

"I hastened to convey Mrs. Owen to the house of a medical man, about a hundred yards distant. The moment she was brought in, he started, and asked, whether the lady had not been brought from the great house? I told him, Yes, and desired he would instantly give her something, and tell me what her disorder was. He said, a pleurisy, and he was much surprised to find her living, as he had been told three days before, that she was dying then. "You have seen the lady before?" "Yes," he said, He had attended her when she first came there, but had been discharged, because he said he

she was not mad, and refused to administer medicines that were calculated for those only who were really insane. "Can you furnish me with a bed?" said I; "she is too ill to be removed farther." "I can," he answered, and gave orders immediately. The bed was soon ready, into which his wife and sister placed her. She was then blooded; a proper cordial given, and every thing done for her that could be at the moment. I put some money into their hands, and bid them get the lady's linen, and other necessaries, and I would return in about three hours.

"I then hastened to the house, and gave orders to have the woman conveyed to the chief magistrate at Caen, and went thither myself. Before him I laid my complaints, stating the sufferings of Mrs. Owen in her house, and requested he would oblige her to

say

say where the children were, and by whose authority they were parted from their mother. He interrogated her: her answers were, that Mrs. Owen and the children had been brought to her house by her husband, and a lady; that they were to board there, and Mrs. Owen was to pay one hundred pounds a year for them. Mrs. Owen was represented to be insane, and orders were given to treat her accordingly. The first quarter was paid in advance; and, when the second became due, they wrote to Paris, to Mr. Owen for it, but he refused to pay, and said, he would not give more than fifty pounds a year for the three. After some altercation, they agreed to take it; but they could not, for that price, let them be in that part of the house they had before, and they were, of course, removed to the garden. He remitted but one quarter more, but they never heard of

of him afterwards; and that as they were unable to maintain three at their own expence, they thought it best to send the children to the house of industry at Caen. She said, Mrs. Owen had been a long time ill, and as they could not think of paying for advice, when they did not know whether they should ever be paid or not, they had done nothing for her.

"The unfeeling brutality of the woman, shocked all present: the magistrate bid her go, with messengers of his, to the house in which the children were, and return with them to him. She went, and, in about half an hour, returned with two lovely children. I presented them to the mayor, who received and embraced them. The woman he ordered into custody, and the house to be searched, to see if any more unhappy beings were confined. The children,

dren, I had immediately stripped of their wretched cloathing, bathed, and dressed in a manner suitable to their rank. They then, with me, paid their respects again to the magistrate, and hastened back to Mrs. Owen, whom we found in a sweet sleep, in which she continued several hours.

"When she awoke, I consulted the apothecary, whether it would be best to present the children to her then, or wait till the next day? He said, he would go to her, and see if she was able to bear it. In about a quarter of an hour, he returned, and said, he believed we might venture; I had prepared the little ones to see their mamma; the thoughts of that made them frantic with joy; they capered and jumped about, like faries, saying, they were glad their dear mamma was come to life again; for, the bad woman had said, she

she was dead. When they came into the apartment, and saw their parent in a neat room, with attendants round her, they cried for joy. When lifted to her bed, they hung round her neck, and kissed her a thousand times. Their little endearments had the desired effect; Mrs. Owen burst into tears, and continued weeping for some time, the little cherubs hanging over her, and mingling their tears with her's. The scene was so very affecting, that every one present wept.

"We told her, the children were come to continue with her, till she was well enough to go with her brother to England, who would probably be with her soon: she expressed by her looks the most heart-felt satisfaction. We at length begged her to part with the children for a short time, while she took some more rest. They were very loth

to leave her; but, when we said, their mamma wanted sleep, which their presence prevented, they begged to kiss her once more, and then they would go; but hoped we would let them come again, when their mamma waked, which we promised. We requested her to court sleep, as that would tend more to her recovery than any thing that could be administered.

"In a few days, she was able to sit up; and, as she appeared composed, I briefly informed her, in what manner her brother had found Owen, and by that means discovered were she was confined. He had hastened to send and have her liberated, as some circumstances prevented his coming himself; but I had orders not to leave her till she was safe in England. She feared you were ill, but I assured her of the contrary, and at length told her, that

Mrs.

Mrs. Owen's death occasioned your stay to settle his affairs. She was extremely affected at hearing of her husband's death; but, by reasoning with her, she became calm. She was anxious to leave Normandy; and, as soon as she was able to bear the motion of a carriage, we set off for England, which we reached without any accident.

"They continued at an hotel, whilst I went to make enquiries respecting her own house, and that where her father-in-law used to reside. The former, I found, had been disposed of, with the furniture. At the latter, I found Mrs. Owen, senior, who had remained in London, for medical advice, as she had laboured under a complication of disorders, for many months. When I had sent her word, that my business related to her children on the continent, she ordered me to be admitted immediately. She

was reduced, through grief, to such a state of weakness, as to render her incapable of moving without assistance.

"At my entrance, she burst into tears. 'I am, Sir,' said she, 'sorry to receive you thus; but domestic troubles have reduced me so, that I am unable to stand.' I said, I was in hopes that the news I brought would go far towards her recovery, as I came to inform her of the safe arrival of Mrs. Owen and her children. 'What do you say, sir? do not, I beseech you, trifle with my feelings; those dear objects, I was many months since informed, were dead.' 'Indeed, madam,' said I, 'you were misinformed, as I, last night, had the happiness of placing them in safety, at the hotel, in Jermyn Street, from which place, I will instantly conduct them to you, if agreeable.'

'Agree-

'Agreeable! Sir,' said she; 'you know not what happiness you will bestow upon me.'

"I ran, or rather flew, to the hotel, and quickly imparted to Mrs. Owen the situation of her mother. She wept much at the account, and, as soon as she was a little composed, we took a coach, and went. When we entered the room, we found the servants employed in restoring their mistress, who had fainted twice since my departure. We were almost afraid of letting her see the children; but, happily, she soon recovered, and with the greatest transport embraced Mrs. Owen, and the children, whose endearments seemed to bring her back to new life. When she was a little calm, she told Mrs. Owen, that her son had sent home a letter, importing the death of his wife and children, by the small pox, at

Desaux, in France, and that he meant shortly to return and settle his affairs; but, from that hour, they had never heard from him.

"I then briefly informed her of some few particulars, relative to the conduct of her son towards his wife and family, and said their lives were saved by the immediate interposition of Heaven, in directing Mrs. Fitzallan for their preservation. I did not think it prudent to relate the death of her son and daughter. It was then settled, that Mrs. Owen, and the children, should remain with her mother till your arrival. When I had rendered every service in my power, I left England with the utmost expedition, as I knew you would be impatient at my delay, it having much exceeded the time the captain thought necessary. Both the ladies and the little ones joined in their wishes, that I would

I would return to England with you. Thus, Sir, I trust I have executed the task enjoined me agreeably to your wishes."

"You have indeed, Sir," said Fitzallan; "and, from this moment, I rank you as my dearest friend." The prince, the father, and the captain, all joined in bestowing their commendations, and they all agreed to go to England together, if Fitzallan would accompany the prince and the others to Florence. This he assented to, provided it was not long before they left Naples. They said, they would leave it in three days, if the captain received letters from his brother, to inform him where he then was.

The next day, Edward proposed to make some enquiries after the lady they found on the beach, at Torré del Greco;

and, while the prince was engaged with a party at court, they set out on their visit. They crossed one of the public walks, when the captain recollected he was near the coffee-house, where his letters were to be left. They went to it, and found there was one, which informed him, that his brother was at Rome, and should continue there three weeks. This was exactly what he wished; he imparted it to his friends, and they agreed to leave Naples, as soon as it might be agreeable to the prince. They found the lady had left Naples for England, near a month. Fitzallan then went to Michael, who was mending hourly; he informed him of his intention to set off for England in three days at farthest, and asked him, whether he thought he could accompany him there. Yes, he said, indeed he could; for, nothing could induce him to stay behind his master, though it

it was evident, he was ill able to go such a journey; but his master thought it best to take him, though he should be retarded by it.

In the morning of the next day, the prince agreed to set off in six hours; and, as he was under a travelling name, little preparation was necessary. The gentleman that returned from England, Fitzallan, and Michael, were in one carriage; the prince, the father, and the captain, in another. They stopped at Rome, where the captain had the happiness of meeting his brother, whom he introduced to his party. They received him with a deal of pleasure, and were agreeably surprised to see him wear an air of extreme cheerfulness. Frederic's heart beat with rapidity; he thought nothing less than his marriage with Mrs. Brisac could occasion so wonderful a change. He rallied him

on it, but could not help trembling at the idea of an explanation. Charles saw his agitation, and pitied it, but was determined not to explain the reason of his gaiety for the present.

The prince having many intimates at Rome, requested his fellow travellers to stay a few days, that he might have an opportunity of introducing them. They all consented with pleasure, except the bewildered Frederic. His brother's silence served only to confirm him in his suspicions. Full of this idea, he resolved to leave his friends, in the same manner as he had his father. As soon as he had formed the determination, he set about putting it in execution; and for that purpose, sat down to write a letter, to leave behind for Fitzallan.

Just as he had finished it, his brother entered

entered the room, to desire he would accompany him to the English hotel; this he declined, saying, he had business of the first importance to his peace, to transact at that moment; therefore could not go. "But," said he, "Charles, I have one question to ask you, before you leave me. Are you married to Mrs. Brisac?"

"My God," exclaimed Charles, fetching a deep sigh; "what makes you think that? Surely if it had been so, I should have informed you."

"Your uncommon cheerfulness," said he, "induced me to think so."

"But could not I be cheerful on any other acconnt, think you?" "I don't know," said Frederic; "I guess of you by myself."

"A just conclusion truly; however, as you seem unhappy, you shall see and judge the cause of my satisfaction, if you will come with me."

"Don't trifle with my feelings, Charles, I beseech you," said Frederic; "you know my weakness, and at the same time must be convinced, that not one on earth would rejoice more in your happiness, than myself."

"Ay, ay," said his brother, "I know; but cannot a man be happy more ways than one? Or do you think it impossible to be in love with more ladies than one at a time? Might we not adore in one, what we admire in another?"

"I don't know," said Frederic, "from my own experience, but it certainly admits of a possibility."

"Well,"

"Well then, come with me, I say, and, if you are not convinced of the truth of my position, then call me by the name of blockhead. We shall be back time enough to dine with the prince, and I know the father is engaged with Fitzallan, to view the Castle of St. Angelo, the Amphitheatre of Vespasian, and other rare and dainty articles of antiquity. Let them go, and view antiques, and we will explore a more modern structure, infinitely more pleasing, I'll warrant you."

The high spirits of Charles, and his enigmatical expressions, raised a spirit of curiosity in Frederic. On they went; but, instead of going to the English hotel, he entered a chapel belonging to the Carthusians. Few people were present; the service was nearly over. Charles took his station under a statue of St. John, and threw his eyes anxiously

ously to one particular spot. What can this mean? thought Frederic, and mechanically looked the same way. In a few minutes, those that had been praying rose up. Charles's eye was still turned to the spot; Frederic in a moment observed a lady hastily pull her veil over her face; and, as she raised her hand to do it, saw a small paper, in the form of a letter, appear from the back of it: and at the same time, perceived his brother raise his hand in the same manner, in which was a similar bit of paper.

When the service ended, he observed the lady and two others, move on to the entrance of the chapel, where a servant was in waiting. At the steps, one of them drew back, said something to an old woman, and slipped the letter into her hand. As the ladies descended the steps, the old woman approached and

and made some sign to Charles, with her fingers; he understood, and answered it; she came beside him, put the letter into his hand, received his in return, and instantly disappeared. Charles hurried away to a-coffee house, and read with avidity the contents; then catching Frederic by the arm, said, "Now for it." He walked with hasty steps through several streets, and at last entered the Castle of St. Angelo, bidding the man that attended, to shew him what was most remarkable in the fortress. As they passed the gate, a carriage drew up, from which came the very ladies they had seen in the chapel. They entered directly after them.

"Now," said Charles, "remark that lady's form in the middle; what do you think of it?"

"Very handsome," said Frederic, "but

"but I never like to give my opinion of a lady, till I have seen her face; and those ladies, I presume, are not disposed to gratify us in that particular."

"They will throw aside their veils," said Charles, "presently, when they think they are not observed. Come this way, and we shall be sure to meet them."

He turned to the right, and they to the left. As they came round the angle of the north turret, on the ramparts, the ladies met them. "Bon Dieu!" said Frederic, and started; "it is as I feared; why, Charles, did you bring me here?"

The ladies went on. "What do you say, Frederic? why did I bring you here? why, to see that lady: is it not much better to view her, than the tar-

peian

peian rock, theatres, amphitheatres, pagan temples, catacombs, obelisks, cirques, sepulchres, triumphal arches, baths, aqueducts, fountains, bridges, churches, porticos, statues, paintings, colleges, hospitals, and though last, not least, the castle we are now in?"

"You distract me, Charles," said Frederic, "with your fooleries. Why did you not tell me, when we were to meet?"

"Upon my soul, it is more than I know myself."

"How can you talk so? not know Mrs. Briac! surely you are out of your senses? Come, let us go; I don't choose to stay any longer: you took me from finishing what I had so much at heart; on purpose to bring me here to tear open wounds, which I foolishly thought

you would heal. You knew I was unhappy, and brought me this wild-goose chase, to make me more so."

"No! on my honor," cried Charles, "I did not. My real intention was, to see whether the charms of a lady, would have the same effect on you, which they have had on me." "Of this," said Frederic, "you were convinced before, and needed not such an abuse of friendship as this, to confirm it." "Poh! poh!" said Charles, "this is idle talk; I never meant to give you pain."

At that moment, the ladies again passed them; but, on Frederic's again looking, he imagined it was not Mrs. B.; and yet, as she walked down the steps that led to the interior of the citadel, he could have sworn it was she. The confusion his thoughts were in, the

the rapid fluctuation of his ideas, and the doubts he had, impelled him to follow them. Charles laughing, descended likewise. The lady smiled on Charles, as she turned; and, not regarding which way she went, stepped on the train of one of the ladies. The check she received, caused her to slip from the step she was on, and fall. Charles jumped forward to raise her, saying, He hoped she was not much hurt. She answered, No, thanked him for his politeness, and was going on, when he said, If it was agreeable to them, himself and his brother would be happy in the honor of attending them round the fortress; as they were themselves strangers, and came purposely to view it. The two eldest thanked him, and, after a little ceremony, accepted his offer.

The distant air with which he accosted

costed them, the manner in which the ladies behaved, puzzled Frederic exceedingly. The youngest lady had not spoke; he was anxious to hear her voice, being persuaded it could not possibly be any other than Mrs. Brisac; though, at times, he thought she was rather too tall; but every look, every gesture was her's. The mystery thickened; it was evident his brother and she were not strangers to each other; but why she did not speak to him, he could not tell. This circumstance confounded him more than all; and how Charles could be so well acquainted with her, without the knowledge of the other ladies, surprised him beyond endurance. 'I will speak to her,' said he to himself; 'at any rate, she must answer me. I shall then be convinced whether it is, or it is not, Mrs. Brisac.'

He took an opportunity, while his brother

brother was explaining something to the other ladies, to ask her, Whether she had been long at Rome? She answered him, in bad French, that she did not speak Italian. Her voice confounded him; it was, it must, it could not be, any other than Mrs. Brisac. But why pretend she could not speak Italian, or why speak bad French, when she could speak both so well? 'I will convince her,' thought he, 'that, in spite of these manœuvres, I know her.' "You have forgot me, Madam," said he, "I presume; is my father well?"

"The latter, I do not know, Sir, as I have not the honor of being acquainted with him; and, as to the former, I can say, that, till just now, I did not know that gentleman had a brother," pointing to Charles.

She said no more; Frederic bowed; the ladies came close to them. He was still strongly persuaded it could be no other than the lady he imagined. About five minutes after this, as they were intent on viewing a particular piece of ordnance, they were surprised by the entrance of Fitzallan, the father, and Signor Pasquinelli. They were amazed at seeing Frederic and his brother there, as they had both declined going with them, under a pretence of business of moment. Fitzallan whispered Frederic: "We know now what business of moment deprived us of your company. How well the poet says,

'But when a lady's in the case,
'You know, all other things give place."

"No, on my honor," said Frederic, "you are mistaken. What I told you was really the case, as far as it relates to myself; but I cannot say as much of

of Charles. He absolutely pressed me to follow him; but I wish to Heaven I had adhered to my original intentions; I should not then have to regret this waste of time."

He spoke this loud enough for the ladies to hear. "You are not fond of arms, Sir?" said one of them. "Not much, Madam," said he; "I find no amusement in viewing them, though I might in using."

"Then you probably think it strange that ladies should visit a fortress, to view articles whose use they have not the least conception of?"

"Not at all, Madam, as I think nothing strange that ladies do;" and he fixed his eyes full upon the youngest lady. She seemed confused, and asked her companions How much more there

was

was to be seen? "Oh! not much, Madam," said the attendant.

The ladies looked surprised at Frederic, as they thought he had said something not over agreeable. When they were about to return to the carriage, Frederic took the hand of the eldest lady, Charles that of the youngest, which he seemed to regard with pleasure; and Edward that of the other lady. When the coach drove off, they all bowed, but Frederic: he sullenly turned upon his heel, and addressed the centinel.

"Upon my soul, Frederic," said Charles, "your behaviour amazes me: don't you think, Fitzallan, that he is a very ungallant fellow, to turn his heel so churlishly upon three such fine women?"

"You

"You may find your account," retorted his brother, peevishly, "in your attentions to them; but that is not the case with me; and I think you have not shown your wisdom, nor your friendship, in dragging me here, to see a woman, who denies she knew your having a brother."

"And well she may; for, she does not yet know that I ever had a father."

"You may play that off upon any other," said Frederic, "but such shallow talk shall not affect me. I am convinced of her folly, and your want of honor."

"Hey day!" said Edward, "what means all this? surely you cannot be seriously angry?" "Indeed I am," said Frederic, "he might have spared me the mortification of being denied by

Mrs. Brisac; for, she, I am certain, the youngest is."

"If she be so," said Charles, "it is unknown to me; for, I declare solemnly, on my honor, I do not know who they are. I saw them first at Naples, on the very day they left that place. I followed them here, labouring under the same belief that you do now. In a week, I was undeceived; I had the good fortune to speak to the lady in question, one evening, at the French Opera, and learnt, she was come to Rome, with an uncle and his family. Finding she was not the lady I sought, I tried to find out who she was; but I could only learn that she was under the protection of an aunt, who had come purposely to Rome, to meet her uncle, who meant to go soon to England. She was extremely shy of saying more, and I forbore to press her, but resolved to watch

watch and meet her in every public place. I succeeded in seeing her, but never could speak to her. However, I contrived to get a letter conveyed to her, stating the situation of my heart, and, if no prior engagement existed, I would presume to solicit the favor of being acquainted with her family. Her answer was free and candid. She acknowledged, she was under no engagement, but that her will was not her own, she being under the immediate direction of her aunts; and that, if I wished for an intimacy in the family, I must first make an acquaintance with them. How to do that she was unable to say, but must leave it to me. Several other letters have passed between us, by means of an old woman, and this morning, she informed me of their intention to visit the chapel, and, if I would be there, she would contrive to let me know where I might have an opportunity

tunity of seeing her aunts, and probably of speaking to them. Delighted with this news, I hastened directly to Frederic, being determined to see if the lady would make the same impression on him, as she had on me, and you see the event. I declare solemnly, I did not imagine he could be so much deceived; now, tell me, am I to blame?"

"Certainly not," said Edward; "come, shake hands, and then try which of you can win the lady. There is nothing like courage in love matters; you remember the old saying, *A faint heart never won a fair lady.* "True, very true," said the father; "I remember that saying very well, when I was in England, and I think, if I was young like you, I should take that for my motto; virtuous love is sure to be crowned with success in the end; therefore be both friends, try to win the lady; and which

ever

ever she makes choice of, let the other be satisfied with her decision. You will then, both of you, show yourselves worthy of the name of good men, by rejoicing each in the success of the other."

Frederic felt mortified at his weakness, and, taking the father by the hand, said, "Make my peace with Charles, I beseech you; for, I am ashamed to ask it myself; I shall act in future as you wish."

"Bravo!" said Fitzallan, "what mischief this love makes! Oh! thou dear little blind deity, long, very long let thy tormenting shafts fly wide of me!"

"Well, Edward," said Charles, "I hope I shall see thy indifferent heart

beat as quick a tune to Cupid, as either of ours, in a short time."

"When that comes," said Edward, "so be it; at present, I bid the sly dog defiance."

The rattling manner of the charming young Irishman put them all to rights, and they set off in high spirits for the hotel. They found the prince returned, and a gentleman, who proved to be the friend of Charles, who had come with him to Ventoliene. A most agreeable day was spent among the friends. Charles made no scruple to relate his morning's adventure, saying, how much he wished to know who the ladies were. The old gentleman, his friend, promised to use his endeavours to find it out; the prince was diverted at the fracas, and approved much of the father's advice.

The

The next day, they were all to go to the tarpeian rock, and then to the vatican. They had not gone from the hotel above five minutes, when they saw the carriage of the ladies, standing at the door of a famous statuary. "Here's the carriage, by Jupiter Ammon!" said Edward; "now for a second rencontre, better than the first: now for an Orlando Furioso scene, or a gentle Petrarch, an Abelard, or a Werter, or some such dying swain, whose plaintive numbers would raise the soul to sympathy and love!"

This rhapsody set them all a laughing, and the prince entered the shop of the artist. "Shew me," said he, "a good copy of Venus de Medicis, Apollo Belvedere, or any other; but these gentlemen," added he, "are the greatest admirers of female beauty," turning

ing to Charles and his brother, "therefore, they would prefer your Venus."

As he said this, two gentlemen and five ladies descended from an upper apartment. Fitzallan and Frederic started. "There is the lady we found upon the beach," they exclaimed, and advanced towards them. The party turned on their exclamation; she immediately recognised them, and advanced likewise, and, close to her, the supposed Mrs. Brisac. Edward and the captain, each presented their hands; she took them in her's, and turning to her company, said, "These are the gentlemen, to whom I owed my preservation, at Torre del Greco."

The whole of them crouded round in an instant, to pay their acknowledgments. Amongst them, she severally presented her mother, brother, and sis-

ter-

ter-in law, the young lady, her cousin, her father, and her aunt. The captain and Fitzallan introduced their company.

After viewing every thing worthy of notice, the lady's party desired the prince's company, to accept a general invitation to their hotel, and the father of the young lady insisted on their dining with him the next day. To this they assented, and several hours more were spent in seeing the curiosities of the Vatican.

When the gentlemen returned to dinner, they were all full of the adventure. The prince said they might be English or Irish; he was certain they would prove a valuable acquaintance, especially as they talked of going to England. Fitzallan was rallied most unmercifully on account of the young lady, whom he found on the beach;

but he seemed to be proof against all they could say.

The next day, the father asked Frederic, if he was now convinced that the lady was not Brisac? "Yes," he answered, he was, and therefore the field was open for his brother. They then all set off for the appointment, in the highest spirits imaginable. Every thing they found served in the most splendid style. After dinner, the father of the young lady informed them, that he was recently arrived from the East Indies, where his health had suffered much, and, to restore it, he had come to Italy. His journey had been over land, on account of some private business; his wife, son, and daughter, were desired to meet him at Naples, at which place, his son married the lady then present. His sister, and niece, had come there likewise; their names

were

were Macdonald. He said, he had found himself much better than he expected, on his arrival, in Italy, and, on that account, did not make any stay at Naples, but proceeded on to Rome. How long he should stay, he did not know; but, as soon as his affairs were settled, he should prepare to return to England; he meant to visit Florence, and make some short stay there. The prince's party said, it was their intention likewise to go to Florence.

A very long discourse ensued, respecting the melancholy affair at Torre del Greco. Mrs. Macdonald informed them, that, on her getting to Naples, and not finding her daughter there, her grief was extreme. Her son was too ill to do any thing, and she had given up every hope of seeing her again, when she was so happily restored to her. Three weeks after, she had the pleasure

of seeing her husband and her son happily recovered. She said that, when she reflected on that awful night, she thought she could never offer up thanks enough to Heaven, for preserving her child in such a miraculous manner.

The brother made the warmest acknowledgments. He appeared to be a very worthy young man, and his wife a very amiable young woman. From that day, the different families became inseparable. No parties were formed without the whole joined; but this did not continue long. Mr. Macdonald having arranged his affairs, informed them of his intention to leave Rome, which place they quitted, and the whole of them arrived at Florence; where, to the unspeakable satisfaction of father Gregory, he found his son, with Genevieve, her husband, and one daughter. The pleasure this afforded him was great

great indeed. His son and niece were grown so much since he last saw them, that he could hardly believe they were the same. His son appeared to be every thing he could wish, and his niece he thought an angel. The moment she was introduced to Fitzallan, he felt what the power of love was. He gazed with mute astonishment on her lovely form, and, when spoke to by the father, hesitated, stammered, and answered Yes, for No. Charles observed it in a moment, and instantly began his raillery.

"Oh! spare me, for God's sake!" said Edward; "surely, if I am at last caught by that little urchin, I have no occasion to complain of the choice he has made; for, is she not a divinity? now, if her dear little heart is engaged to some more happy swain, ah! Mon Dieu, what will become of me! I must go, leave

learn of the father, whether she is; for, as I told you, I shall make short work on't."

"But how will you do, if she is engaged?"

"Why quit her, and try to find another as fast as I can; to be long in suspense, I am sure, won't do."

Charles was about to reply, when Genevieve came up, and said, she should request them to stay a few days with them. The prince, who appeared equally struck with the charms of the young lady, declined it then, but said, he would renew his visit in a very short time, as he was obliged to go to Bononi.

When he was gone, a delightful conversation took place. The father was lost

lost in contemplating his son, whose every look and gesture reminded him of his lost Maria. They had ten thousand things to talk of. Genevieve's husband, said, The business which called him to Florence was partly on his account, as they had received from England seven hundred pounds, which he had lent many years before, to a merchant in distress, but whose affairs had taken a rapid turn, and he had honorably repaid it, with interest, though never called upon to do so, and had sent a most elegant diamond ring, as a present to young Marlbro'. "Then, that sum, my dear Genevieve," said the father, "shall be sent to the son of the good Moor at Sallee, to redeem some christian slaves; it will make many a heart glad."

"May the God of heaven bless you!" said Vaucluse, "and I will add my

mite to the bequest." "And so will I," said every one. They were soon composed and happy, all but Frederic, who was still restless; however, in a few days, he became more easy. Charles did not once mention his father, and Frederic was afraid to say any thing, fearing to hear that he was the husband of Mrs. Brisac.

A short time after they had been at Florence, Charles told the father, He had a wish to make overtures to Mrs. Macdonald, for his consent to address his niece, and asked him, whether he thought it advisable to consult Frederic, before he did it. He said, Yes, by all means, as an open and ingenuous mode of acting was sure to have the approbation of every good mind; he would take an opportunity of talking with his brother upon the subject, that afternoon; but there was one thing he would

remark to him, that no engagement of that sort ought to be entered into, without the approbation of his father, and he would advise him to write to him at Turin, lay open the state of his heart, and implore his pardon for leaving him in the abrupt manner he had done. This, Charles knew not how to accede to; he could not be brought to believe that he had done wrong, in absenting himself, and, on that account, did not know how to pen a letter of that kind; but, if the father would write for him, he should think himself for ever obliged.

This, the good man promised, and in the afternoon of that day, took an opportunity of speaking to Frederic. He was surprised to find him enter with pleasure into the affair; he said he thought Miss Macdonald every way calculated to make his brother happy, and

and he sincerely wished to see him so. This point being settled, he immediately wrote to Count Krauntzic, stating every particular that he knew relative to both the youths, and earnestly requested his pardon for them, as they were, notwithstanding their elopement, very worthy and deserving young men.

While they were waiting for the Count's answer, they were agreeably entertained by the various amusements they entered into. The prince admired, and would have tenderly loved the young Genenieve, had he not perceived in her a warm attachment for Fitzallan; and, as it was reciprocal, he would not wound that tranquil pleasure they seemed to enjoy.

Pasquinelli, who had conducted Mrs. Owen to England, was a man of refined feelings, and noble sentiments, born of a dis-

a distinguished family at Verona. He had been a dupe to sharpers and designing men of every kind; his fortune had become a prey to them, and, at the time he was sent to England, with Mrs. Owen, was employed by the prince in going from Bononi to Ventoliene, and back, as he was a man whose integrity he could rely on. The prince, at his return, shewed him distinguished marks of his favor, and made him his confidant and friend. He likewise took him to all places with him, and of course he had always made one in their parties at the Macdonalds'. The sister, who was the widow of Mr. Macdonald's brother, a lady about forty years of age, saw Signor Pasquinelli, and fancied him. Her fortune was large, having all she brought her husband settled on herself. She was left without children, and had adopted Miss Macdonald, who was the daughter of Mr. Macdonald's younger brother.

brother, and brought her up as her own. On her she meant to bestow a very handsome fortune. She had spared no cost in her education, and had formed her manners with the tenderest care.

The prince had narrowly observed the attention this lady paid to his friend, and a thought struck him, that, if he could make this couple happy, it would be rendering a very essential service to both. He took an opportunity to sound Pasquinelli; his answer was what he expected, That his humble fortune would wholly exclude his attempting to profit by the lady's preference. The prince instantly obviated that, by saying He would make him his first secretary, with an income suitable to his rank, and what further he could do for him, should not be wanting. The poor man, overcome with gratitude, fell at his feet. The prince raised

raised him, and with pleasure sparkling in his eyes, bid him be composed, saying, He did not think he had done more than his duty by him, as he had served him for many years faithfully, and the humanity he had evinced towards Mrs. Owen fully convinced him he was deserving all he could do for him. With tears he thanked the prince, and owned that he had loved the lady from the day he had seen her at the fortress. Conscious of his want of fortune, he had resolved to conquer his attachment. "But now," interrupted the prince, "you must do it no longer; I shall be at Macdonald's to night, when I shall purposely say something in your favor."

This was too much for him to bear, and hs was obliged to leave the prince abruptly, to give a loose to his feelings. He did not offer to stop him; a heart

like

like the prince's alone can form an idea of what he felt. It was a satisfaction, such as angels feel, when commissioned to make glad the hearts of the unhappy. The prince soon joined the father and Vaucluse, who were in earnest conversation, respecting the young Genevieve. The father had remarked the growing passion of Fitzallan, and had been asking his brother, whether the heart of Genevieve was at liberty. Vaucluse assured him it was, for any thing he knew.

The prince was about to leave them, when Vaucluse hastily desired his highness to stop; they were only, he said, talking over some love affairs. "That is a subject," said the prince, "which seems to engross every body's thoughts, but yours and mine; and yet, upon my honor, I must confess that mine are not wholly exempt from it; pray, who

who are the objects of your conversation?" "My niece," said the father; "we see, or imagine we see, a mutual attachment between Fitzallan and the young Genevieve. I know him to be an amiable and deserving young man; and as we aim not at titles for her, I know not with whom she can be more happy."

"True," said the prince; "Monsieur cannot, I think, make any objections."

"None in the least," said Vaucluse; "I have but two children, and them I wish to see as happy as their mother and I have been." "You say right," said the prince; "while you prefer happiness to splendor, you cannot fail to enjoy it; and I sincerely wish to see more than one couple equally so."

"And I too," said Vaucluse; "my other

other daughter Maria, will be here to-morrow, and I hope to see her blessed under the protection of young Marlbro." "Yes," said the father, "there rest all my hopes. My son and his cousin have been brought up in the tenderest affection for each other; that affection is ripened into love, and, if my son and the dear girl love as sincerely as my lost Maria and myself did, I shall be blest indeed. This done, the remainder of my life shall be spent in the service of my God."

"Then your highness approves of the matches we have made, for our children?" said Vaucluse. "Indeed I do," said the prince, "and I hope you will add me to the list of the happy ones; for, I begin to think there cannot possibly be any state so blessed as a married one, where the couple study each other's felicity." I know not any thing

thing would give me more pleasure,' said the father, "than to see you united to a lady, deserving of your virtues."

As he said this, Frederic entered. "There is an English family," said he, "this moment arrived; will your highness step to the window and observe them? They are the most curious set I ever beheld." The company moved to the window and saw an old gentleman, wrapped up in the strangest great coat that mortal ever saw; an old lady, the exact counterpart of the gentleman, another lady between forty and fifty, and a young man not quite twenty. Those were all at the door of the opposite hotel, disputing with two postillions. The youngest of the ladies was scolding most unmercifully, in very bad French, something about a lap dog. The old gentleman was swearing in English vociferously, calling them all the sons of wh----,

scoundrels, dogs, and blackguards, that he could pronounce. The old lady was walking about, and seemed to lament the loss of something, while the young gentleman perfectly unconcerned, was whistling an English tune. He seemed by his countenance, and the arch looks he, every now and then, threw towards the scolding lady, to say, Now, what would I give to see her box those fellows; what rare fun it would afford me! Nothing that the men could say to extenuate their fault, could appease the lady; her fury increased every moment.

While the prince and his company were laughing immoderately at her gestures, to their amazement, they saw Michael run towards the young gentleman, and say: "Ah! and upon my soul, your honor, and is it your own dear self, that is come?" "My good fellow, Michael," said the young man, taking

taking him by the hand, and shaking it in the most friendly manner, "How do you do? Where is Ned?"

"Ah! and plaise your honor, my master is in this here grand hothell, along with some dear sweet honies of ladies."

"Oh! oh! very fortunate by Jupiter," said the gentleman, "prythee, take me to him, that I may get from this damned confusion of Babel."

"Ay, and the devil Babel it, and so it is, and plaise your honor; a cursed old cat, she plays it off, for the honor of St. Ursula, upon my faith; your honor has been well beset, if you came all the way from England with that old Jezabel, who, I was in hopes, was long since laid in her shroud." "Oh! the devil shroud her!" cried the young

man; "she lives on purpose to plague young fellows like me, or she never would have been brought all this way, without having had her neck broke."

They turned, and entered the hotel, leaving the combatants to scold and fight, as long as they chose. Fitzallan was engaged with Madame Vaucluse, and had lost the pleasure of seeing the fracas. The father, the prince, and Vaucluse, were at a loss to guess who the party could possibly be; it was evident that Michael was well acquainted with them. While they were conjecturing, Michael tapped at the door. "Come in," said Vaucluse; the door opened, and he entered, saying, "An plaise your highness, and your honor, here's my master's own dear brother, come all the way from dear England, with that develish old cat of the bog, that is down yonder, firing off her jaw blunder-

blunderbusses upon them there lankey french crackers of postillions. Ah! the devil burn me, if they ha'n't enough of it."

While Michael was making this fine introductory speech for the young gentlemen, the prince and Vaucluse found it very difficult to preserve their gravity; and the young man found it equally as hard to keep his. However, the father seeing their situation, stepped forward, and said: "You are welcome, sir, to Florence; as Mr. Fitzallan's brother, we are extremely happy to see you. Go, Michael, and find your master. I think he is in Madame Vaucluse's dressing-room." "Yes, your honor," said he, and away he ran.

Fitzallan, in the utmost astonishment, entered. The pleasure of the two brothers was great indeed, at meeting so

unexpectedly. Edward then introduced him; "Henry Fitzallan," said he, "my brother, who will, I am certain, be extremely happy in the honor of your friendship." They received him, with much pleasure. "You have had an unpleasant rencontre," said the prince, "with your postillions." We have, sir," said Henry, "but this is but a breeze to some former ones. The lady, whom you observed to possess such a happy talent of scolding, has found opportunities, at the end of every stage, to exercise her accomplishments in that science; this broil was occasioned by the loss of a favorite lap-dog, that happened to be of such a delicate constitution, that it could not bear the inside of the coach, without being disordered; he was therefore placed in a cradle, and committed to the care of one of the postillions, who, not being used to curs in a cradle, by some means

or other, lost it on the road. It was the old lady's pet, and, upon my honor, I could not help rejoicing in the disaster."

"Surely," said Fitzallan, "the saying that old women may live as long as they like, is most truly verified in that abominable Miss Frances. I was in hopes she had been dead long since; she is," said he, turning to the prince, "an English old maid of the first class, and lives with my aunt, who is the wife of the gentleman that was left joint trustee with Mrs. Owen, to my brother, sister, and myself. She has had, for many years, the sole direction of all things, spiritual and temporal; and I believe no slave-driver in a plantation ever exercised his power with more scrupulous exactness.

"I should like much," said the

prince, "to have the pleasure of being in her company, she seems such a perfect original." "That pleasure, if your highness can deem it so," said Henry, "you shall have shortly. But, for the consequences of such an interview, I would not be answerable; for, your highness must expect nothing less than the lady's falling violently in love with you, as that is a propensity she is particularly inclined to."

The prince laughed much at the conceit, and Henry assured him, if he chose to have the joke played off upon him, it should most certainly be done. "Oh! pray," said he, "let us have it; I'll warrant to manage the lady." "Then your highness shall see her, you may depend upon it, in all her pristine lustre."

The idea diverted the young men exceed-

exceedingly, and the next day was appointed for the introduction. Fitzallan then asked his brother, what brought them so unexpectedly to Tuscany?

"A travelling whim of Miss Frances," said Harry, "who has taken it into her head, upon reading Pinkerton, that her knowledge of medals, by far exceeded his, and as soon as this idea took possession of her brain, she never left teazing my aunt, and my complaisant guardian, to accompany me to Italy, and she plied her advice so well, that she actually made them believe that such a tour would renovate them both so much, that they would return to England in full possession of health and beauty. Vanity never forsakes the ladies; my aunt, who, forty years ago, was told she was another Venus, has been actually led to believe, that she wanted only the soft air of Italy to

breathe on her for a few months, to restore those charms, which her glass informs her she has absolutely lost. My guardian was persuaded that he should lose his gout, and be enabled again to dance a minuet. Miss Frances is firmly of opinion, that her rare and uncommon acquirements in the knowledge of medals, gems, and statues, cannot fail to gain her a wise man for a husband, in a country, so famed for paying a proper respect to all lovers of the fine arts; and at her return, have her bust presented to the public as a *rara avis*. She affects to despise all persons, who cannot tell the difference between an *Otho* and a *Louis*, or say, upon viewing a gem, when it was engraved, or whether it is ancient or modern."

"The description of this lady," said the prince, "amuses me much; I shall really be anxious to be introduced to her."

her." "I suppose," said Henry, "by this time, the breeze is blown over. I shall inform the amiable Miss Frances, that my brother is here."

He took leave of the company, with a promise to return early in the evening; and Edward went to pay his respects to his guardian. Soon after, the arrival of Maria, Vaucluse was annonnc'd. Marlbro and Charles had been about six leagues to meet her. She was received by the fathers with transports of joy; the prince thought she rivalled Genevieve. All was harmony and pleasure, and the remainder of the day was spent in inexpressible delight. In the evening, Henry joined them, as did the Macdonald family; a general introduction took place, and a more agreeable party never met. Henry was particularly struck by the mild and placid charms of Mary Macdonald, of Torre

del Greco, but distinguished by Charles as the lady of the beach.

The next morning, Henry came, full of his intended presentation of Miss Frances. He informed his brother and Monsieur Vaucluse, that he had made the lady believe, that one of the first princes in Italy had heard of her uncommon abilities in the study of medals, and was dying with anxiety to have the pleasure of paying his respects to her, and, if she would give him leave, he would appoint an early hour that day. His guardian, he said, had laboured to persuade her that it could not be any such thing, and that he only meant to teaze her; but, having convinced him it was the prince who was at Monsieur Vaucluse's, that had expressed such an ardent desire to be introduced to her, he said no more, but that he wished to know from Edward whether

whether it was so, or not, as he could hardly believe that a prince troubled himself about such old canker-eaten nonsense, as broken Nigers, Pertinaxes, Pupienuses, and Cæsars, with a long rigmarole parcel of stuff, whether it was Adlocutio, or Adlodutio ; but Edward, he said, had confirmed what he had told her, and she had sent him, with a full budget of compliments to the prince, a like number to Madame Vaucluse, and the young ladies ; and to say, she should be happy to have the honor of receiving them with Fitzallan, any time that morning.

In less than half an hour, the ladies, attended by Edward, went ; and were received by the old gentleman, his lady, and Miss Frances, with an immense deal of ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Akerworth were extremely pleased with their visitors, and expressed the highest appro-

approbation of Fitzallan's choice, he having introduced Genevieve as his spouse elect. They promised to add to the circle of their friends, as soon as they were a little recovered from the fatigue of their journey, and the grief Mrs. Akerworth felt for the loss of her dear little Fudge. Madame Vaucluse desired her by no means to grieve for a poor little animal, whose place she could immediately supply with a most lovely one, which her daughter Maria had brought home for a lady, who had left Florence, before she arrived, and the little creature should be instantly sent for, if she would accept it. She replied, she should be for ever obliged, as it would serve to divert her mind. Edward sent one of the servants to fetch it, and Genevieve presented it to her. "Now, that is something like a dog," said the old gentleman; "my dear Susan, don't think any more about what

what cannot be recovered, but transfer your regard to this little thing, who will not fail to divert you."

Miss Frances was in raptures with it, and said, she should gaze at it, with as much extacy, as she should at a first brass of Vitellius. After a deal more such trifling discourse, Miss Frances was desired by her uncle and aunt to return with the ladies, and make their compliments to Monsieur Vaucluse. This was just what Henry desired, and, with the ladies, returned the female virtuoso. She was about forty, tall, and very thin; with a brown complexion, black eyes, long face, with high cheek bones, and very bad teeth. She was dressed in an elegant French travelling dress, of pale pink silk; on her head, a small grey English beaver hat, placed over a light brown wig; and the whole [toute-nsemble of her person was

was, as she thought, strikingly captivating.

The prince, Monsieur Vaucluse, the father, and young Marlbro', were waiting to receive her. Henry took her hand, and, with all the solemn pomp of a great man, introduced the blooming Miss Frances to the prince. He accosted her with all the becoming dignity that marked his character, and was not, at the same time, a little profuse in his compliments, of the wonderful accomplishments he had been told she possessed, and the profound knowledge she had of a study, that was, even by gentlemen, regarded as dry, learned, and abstruse. She returned his compliments in the most scientific manner; said, that she should think nothing of a journey to the antipodes, so she could, at the end of it, enjoy the pleasure of conversing with a gentleman,

tleman, who had a taste for her darling amusement. The prince highly extolled her unexampled pursuit, saying, it was such, as none but individuals of sound sense and uncommon abilities could attain to; and he should, at all times, be happy to render her all the assistance in his power, towards furnishing her cabinet, which he did not in the least doubt would be superior of its kind.

Miss Frances was in raptures with the prince, declared she would not purchase a single medal, without first consulting him upon it, as she meant to make, before she returned to England, one of the completest collections, that had been ever formed. The English coins, she ridiculed much, and, in that particular, she coincided with Pinkerton, whom she hoped, at her return, to rival, in every respect. The prince

most

most admirably kept his countenance, and as he spoke pretty good English, the bad French of Miss Frances, or the worse Italian, was not called forth, though Harry wanted much to make her speak both; but to this the gentleman had objected, saying, her blunders would overturn their gravity.

The ladies were extremely amused with her, and Madame Vaucluse requested her to wave all ceremony and let them see her as often as possible, and to prevail upon her uncle and aunt to do so likewise. This she promised, as she said, she was certain she could not feel any felicity, when absent from the prince. This speech totally destroyed the composure of Henry and Fitzallan, who, looking archly at the prince, said, "Did I not tell you so? Over head and ears, by Jupiter!" and set up a laugh. The ladies alarmed,

alarmed, lest Miss Frances should divine the cause of their mirth, looked earnestly towards the window, and exclaimed; "Lord bless me! overhead and ears sure enough," pointing to a hog-driver, who, at that moment, happened to be passing, with an unruly pig on his shoulder, screeching most unmercifully. The whole company looked that way, and had their laugh out, at the expence of the pig. Soon after Miss Frances took her leave, Harry and Edward attending her.

At her return to Mr. and Mrs. Akerworth's, she overwhelmed them with a torrent of applauses of the company, to which her dear Henry had introduced her. The prince was a divinity—a man of the most profound erudition, with a person that would rival Apollo's. "Did I not tell you, sir," turning to her uncle, "that, in France,

France, Tuscany, and Italy, we should meet with beings worthy to be ranked among men, and not such a set of vulgar barbarians as our own countrymen, who know nothing beyond the gaming-table, their bottles, and their wenches? Learning and politeness have been long since banished from our island, and it is a moot point, whether there ever was any in it. I am sure that, in this country, we shall begin to live; and, when we are a little settled, and I begin to form my collection, we shall be ready to hang ourselves, to think we have murdered so many years of our lives among such a set of brutes."

"For God's sake! Frances," said Mrs. Akerworth, "do, be a little rational; I shall be happy, if you can make your words good; for, hitherto, our journey has been scratching and tearing

tearing to pieces all the customs, manners, and persons we have been amongst, since we lost sight of the cliffs of Dover." "Aye, but we are now," said she, "got into a new region, and the air we breathe, as philosophers tell us, acts upon the persons of men in a surprising degree."

"And upon women too, God knows," said the old gentleman. "Oh Lord! sir," said she, "you will, I fear, be always the same; but I hope my aunt will feel the good effects of it, if you don't." "I hope not," said he, "if she is to be as much metamorphosed as you are likely to be."

Miss Frances was angry at this, and left the room. Edward then delivered the compliments of the prince and the other gentlemen, and informed him, they would next day wait upon him.

"I shall

"I shall be happy," said he, "to see those gentlemen, who can persuade that nonsensical woman not to make such a fool of herself."

Harry laughed till he was ready to drop, at the ridiculous ideas of Miss Frances, and told Mr. Akerworth, that nothing could contribute so much to his, and his aunt's amusement, as indulging her in her present conceit; and, as her fortune was large, and no man, he was certain, would be plagued with her, she might as well spend it in the collection of coins, as in any other more idle pursuit. Mr. Akerworth told Edward, he should with the greatest pleasure cultivate an acquaintance with Monsieur Vaucluse, and the father; as he greatly admired the ladies, and was led to think he could not have made a better choice. He was sorry, he said, the other girl was engaged, as she

she would have been a charming wife for Harry.

"Ah, never mind him, sir," said Edward; "I think he will find a wife to your wishes before he returns. You must be among the circle of monsieur's friends, and then try whether you can't pitch upon one for him." Well, well, boys, I shall see." Edward soon took his leave.

That day, they were engaged at the Macdonalds'; the next was spent in visiting Mr. and Mrs. Akerworth, and the French Opera; the day after was appointed for a dinner party at M. Vaucluse's, at which were the Macdonalds, the Akerworths, the prince, with Pasquinelli, Charles, Mr. Dupont, his friend, and Frederic. After dinner, the frolicsome Henry wanted to show off the accomplishments of Miss Fran-

ces;

ces; but the ladies opposed it, and a dance was substituted. The prince desired he might have the honor of arranging the company, which he did. Mr. Macdonald took the hand of Mrs. Akerworth, who, though old, did not decline it; Signor Pasquinelli, that of Mrs. E. Macdonald; Mrs. Macdonald, Mr. Dupont; Charles, Miss Macdonald; Henry, the lady of the beach; Fitzallan, Genevieve; Marlbro', Maria; Frederic, Mr. Vaucluse; and last, though not least, the prince, and Miss Frances. Father Gregory, Mr. Akerworth, and M. Vaucluse, engaged in conversation, which ended in their approbation of the choice the young people had made of partners, and which they hoped soon to see united.

Thus fled the evening in mutual pleasure. At a rational hour, the company broke up. Miss Frances was nearly

nearly out of her senses with joy; she set down the prince as her future spouse, and ran over in her mind what vast elegant collection of medals, statues, gems, and pictures, she would have, such as should set at nought all competitors; and fondly anticipated the splendor, with which she should return to England, when Princess of Bononi.

Three days after this, an express arrived from Count Krauntzic, at Turin, in answer to father Gregory's letter; likewise a letter from Mr. Dainville, stating, that the count lay dangerously ill, and requested that Charles and Frederic would lose no time in reaching Turin. Expresses, he said, had been sent, a fortnight before, to London, Paris, Vienna, Florence, Rome, Naples, and Venice, to endeavour to find either one, or both of them, and get them to return immediately,

the life of the count had been in imminent danger for some months; but his complaints had rapidly increased for the last six weeks. That from the count, by his secretary, said, the present state in which the count was, wholly precluded him from giving his consent to the union of his sons, and requested their immediate return.

The young men, alarmed at the unhappy state of their father, lost not a moment in preparing for their departure; but it was agreed, that, as soon as the Macdonalds left Florence, M. Vaucluse and his party should accompany them to Turin. The prince also promised to join them there. Charles took a tender leave of his Juliana, and they set out. When they arrived at Turin, they found the count in the greatest danger, but sensible. The presence of his sons appeared to give him

him the most heartfelt satisfaction; he was raised in the bed by the domestics; his sons knelt to him, and implored his pardon. He embraced, and forgave them, saying he was happy once more to behold them, as their absence had reduced him to the state in which they found him. He mildly reproved both, but said he feared he was as much to blame as they had been; but now he would endeavour to forget what was passed; and, to make his last hour comfortable, he desired they would not leave his apartment, as he had much to say. They both assured him, that being fully sensible of their faults, nothing should induce them to offend again.

Charles asked after the countess. "The countess!" said his father, "what do you mean?" "Is not Madame Brisac," said Charles, "our

mother-in-law? we were informed, she was to be so, and naturally concluded we should have to pay our respects to her, as such."

"Ah! my boys, how much you have been misled! you know not the worth of that amiable woman; she is more than deserving all the rank I could raise her to, but her heart is too generous to take advantage of any man's love. She is still single, and more worthy than ever of our esteem. Mine is not the only title she has refused; she prefers peace and humble retirement to all the glare of fashionable greatness. She is afraid of experiencing again the treatment she received from the unfeeling Brisac, and that induces her to continue with her father, who has remained at Turin ever since."

Frederic

Frederic felt a satisfaction, which it would be difficult to describe, at hearing Mrs. Brisac was still single, but, when he found that the Count's illness arose from their unkind behaviour in quitting him, his heart smote him, and he regarded himself as little less than his murderer. Charles was nearly as much affected as he, and when the servants had left the room, he burst into tears, and again knelt to his parent. The count bade him rise, saying, he had long since forgiven him, and whether he did, or did not, recover from his illness, he should find that their happiness would be preferred to his own.

They then related to their father, at his request, in what manner, and where they had spent the time of their absence. The incidents they recited seemed to divert his mind, and give

him temporary ease. The description Charles gave of Miss Macdonald, with the resemblance she bore to Mrs. Brisac, seemed to please him, and he wished he might recover, to see both his sons happy. He said, he had found in the society of Mr. Dainville and his family every solace it was in his power to receive; Mr. Dainville, he said, would be with him soon, and bring his daughter with him. Frederic's heart fluttered; Charles was composed; his thoughts reverted to his Juliana; but both fervently prayed for their parent's recovery.

About two hours after dinner, (which they had taken in their father's apartment,) Mr. Dainville was announced. He was extremely happy, when he saw the young men, and congratulated them on their return. His family, he said, were all well, but very much afflicted

flicted at the Count's illness. Mrs. Brisac had come with him, and his daughter-in-law, to pay their respects to the count; but hearing they were with him, had declined coming up. The Count, whose spirits were much better, begged Mr. Dainville to desire the ladies to come to him, he went, and returned with them. They expressed much satisfaction at seeing the brothers, and said, they sincerely hoped they would not elope again, as they were sure nothing could accelerate the recovery of their father so much as their presence.

The ladies were very glad to see such a vast alteration for the better in his lordship, and began to entertain hopes that he would regain his health. The physician coming in, was agreeably surprised at seeing such a wonderful change, in so short a time; especi-

ally as he had the day before pronounced the count's life in the utmost danger, he having kept his bed near two months, and it being a nervous fever, it had baffled all medicine. He had been prevailed upon to take two glasses of wine, and, though extremely weak, had set up in his bed near three hours. They stayed some time, and were happy, at their departure, to see his lordship's spirits, instead of decreasing, increase. They requested the company of the young men the next day for a few hours, if the father could part with them, which his lordship promised to do, if he remained better.

When the ladies were gone, he seemed inclined to rest, he fell into a sweet sleep, and reposed for many hours. Charles and Frederic retired to a double bedded room, adjoining their father's, having given orders to be awaked, if

he

he enquired for them; but they were not disturbed, and the next day, they had the pleasure of seeing him in a fair way of recovery. His ideas had undergone an entire revolution; the sight of his sons had done away the gloomy reflections which dwelt upon his mind, and he lost all apprehensions of not living to be blest with the society of his children; they were returned, and he was happy.

They breakfasted with him, and he desired they would pay a visit to Mr. Dainville. Charles immediately assented, but Frederic rather wished to stay with his father, as he could hot reconcile himself to the idea of its being his real wish for him to go there, and he was resolved never to offend him again. His father saw the generous struggle in the breast of his son; he admired it, and was determined, from that mo-

ment to unite him to Mrs. Brisac, if it could possibly be accomplished. Full of this, he permitted Charles to go alone, but desired him to make Frederic's excuses to the ladies, and bring Dainville back with him, as he had something of moment to impart to him.

When Charles was gone, the count reverted to the time of Frederic's leaving Turin, and desired he would more fully enter into the circumstances that had occurred to him since that period, which the young man did. The count knew not what to think of the society at Bononi. He said, he had heard of it, but never could learn any particulars. The scenes which Frederic related he had seen there, subsequent to those at Ventoliene, amazed him; he longed to see the prince and father Gregory, as he should much wish to become a member. The account of

Owen

Owen shocked him much, but confirmed the opinion he had always entertained, that the damned rest not; and, from the bare conversation of his son, he was become an absolute convert to the father's doctrine, to whom he desired him to send, and request he might see him at Turin, as soon as possible. This command pleased Frederic, as he had not the least doubt of the father's hastening his journey.

Charles was, in the mean time, agreeably amused at Mr. Dainville's, who received him with the greatest pleasure. The ladies were earnest in their enquiries after the count and Frederic. The relation he gave of the vast change for the better in his father gave pleasure to all, and they began to indulge the most flattering hopes.

The ladies withdrew in about a quar-

ter of an hour. Charles then asked Mr. Dainville some particulars respecting his father's illness. He informed him, that on the morning when Frederic was taken ill, the count had made an offer of his hand and fortune to Mrs. Brisac; but that she, as well as himself, had politely declined it; not from motives of dislike, but from the very same that had actuated her in the refusal of himself. The count had made use of every argument that could be devised, to shake her resolution, but in vain. At leaving them, he desired that the intimacy between the families might not suffer by this circumstance; and, though she had negatived his visits as a lover, yet he flattered himself she would not refuse to admit him as a friend. This was consented to. At his return to the hotel, he was greatly surprised to find his son in such a short time so very ill. Every advice was procured;

procured ; but a delirium, with alarming appearances, baffled their skill for some weeks, during which time, his father had discovered the state of his heart. He saw, he felt for, and pitied him ; and nothing was left undone, to make him understand that the count was sensible of it, and would try to relieve his anguish ; but he was lost to every thing, and they at last thought it most advisable not to say any thing more upon the subject, till the course of the fever was abated, and he might be composed ; but this was not for some weeks.

At length, he gathered strength to walk from room to room, but obstinately persisted in a gloomy silence. His preceptor had agreed to seize the first moment that offered to let him know what had passed, and his father's intentions concerning him. But at the time

time when they were led to hope for an opportunity, he privately left the hotel; and, notwithstanding every search that was made, could not be found. This misfortune, added to what the count felt for his other son, and his own disappointments, brought on a violent fit of illness, from which, after four months confinement, he was restored; but his health did not continue long, for, finding no intelligence could be received of either of his children, he fell ill of a nervous fever, which had been continually increasing, to the time the letters came from Florence. The joy of receiving them had nearly been fatal, his spirits being so weak, as to be incapable of enduring any particular reverse; but they were happy, he said, to find so pleasing a change, which they trusted would continue. Mrs. B. he said, had condemned herself for being though unintentionally, the cause of so much uneasi-

uneasiness to so good and generous a man as the count, whose happiness they should ever consider as their own.

Charles then related to Mr. Dainville whatever had occured to him, and the prospect he had of being happy with a lady, who was, he thought, the representative of Mrs. Brisac. This gave much pleasure to M. Dainville, and he was certain it would to his preceptor, who had been the constant attendant of the count. Charles said, he should never be sufficiently grateful to him and the good doctor, for their kind attention to his father; but himself and his brother should make it their study to return it by every means in their power. He then delivered his father's message, and they took leave of the ladies, with a promise of bringing Frederic the next day.

Mr.

Mr. Dainville and Charles returned to the count, whom they found agreeably amused with the relation Frederic had given of his adventures. The doctor had joined them a little before, and had listened with the greatest attention to some anecdotes of father Gregory and the prince, whom he wished much to see. While Frederic was writing the letters, the count, the preceptor, and Mr. Dainville, were engaged in earnest conversation respecting him. The count said, he had desired the company of Mr. Dainville, on purpose to make a proposal to him about his son Frederic; which was, that he would use the influence he had over Mrs. Brisac, to induce her to accept his hand. She was not ignorant of the sincere attachment he had evinced for her; and, as one of his sons was likely to be happy in the object of his choice, he had an ardent desire to see his other

so

so likewise, and by so doing, it would secure his peace, and be the means of restoring himself to health; and he the more earnestly desired to promote it, as he witnessed the struggle his son had to conquer his hopeless passion. He thought, he said, that she could not possibly object to him, as he had neither title nor fortune to boast of, superior to her own. His income would be only twelve hundred a year; therefore, he hoped she would not object to give him the right to call her daughter-in-law.

Mr. Dainville was so much surprised at this proposal, so wholly unexpected, that he knew not what to say; but, being pressed by the doctor to give his consent, he acquiesced and promised to say every thing in his power, to prevail upon his daughter to admit the addresses of Frederic, though he would

not

not, by any means, vouch for the success of it. This point settled, the count and the preceptor, who loved his pupil with the fondness of a parent, enjoyed as much pleasure in the thought of being the means, (though unknown to him) of his felicity, as if they were to have been placed in the full possession of all their wishes. They agreed to keep the whole a secret from Frederic, till M. Dainville had seen whether he was likely to succeed with Mrs. Brisac. He promised most faithfully to execute his commission, and to use the whole of his influence to prevail upon her to accede to their wishes, and said nothing could so much contribute to his future felicity as the pride of having his child united to such a noble family, whose virtues would reflect honor on any rank, much more on his—he left them soon after to execute his negociation.

The

The count continued to mend daily, and in less than a week from that time, he was able to sit up to dinner. Three days after, they were agreeably surprised, at receiving a line from father Gregory, intimating the arrival of himself and family at Turin. Charles and Frederic immediately waited on them. The former had been led to expect his Juliana, but was disappointed; the Vaucluse family and Fitzallan only were arrived, as Mr. Macdonald's could not conveniently leave Florence for a fortnight; but, as they had nothing to detain them, and Edward wished to be with his sister, they set off. The prince meant to join them in a few days, and proceed with them to England, at which place it had been agreed for Genevieve to give her hand to Fitzallan, and Maria hers to Marlbro'. Mr. Akerworth was enquired for, and the lovely Miss Fran-

ces. Edward said, he knew not how the prince would come off in that quarter, for the lady was most desperately in love with him.

Harry was quite in despair, as all the diversion he had promised himself was absolutely negatived, and he feared he should be doomed to make the tour of Italy, in the company of his enchanting cousin, without the relief of the prince or any other good charitable person. Harry, he said, had by the consent of his guardian, made a formal declaration of his passion to Mr. Macdonald, who had agreed to bestow on him the hand of his daughter, with ten thousand pounds, immediately upon his return from the continent; and he made no doubt that he would now play off his tricks so effectually upon Miss Frances, as to induce them to return much sooner than was at first proposed.

proposed; especially as the prince meant to go to England, and leave her collection to be made, when she returned princess of Bononi, which she firmly believed would be the case. After an hour spent together, they returned, accompanied by the father, M. Vaucluse, and Fitzallan. The count and the doctor received them with great satisfaction; they were profuse in their acknowledgements of the obligations they were under, for the good advice and assistance they had given Frederic. The day passed in the most agreeable manner.

In the evening, the young men left the company, to pay their respects to the ladies, and apologise for the longer absence of their friends. Frederic said, he was much happier than he had been for some time, as the recovery of his father was the first wish of his heart.

"And

"And the second," said the arch Genevieve, "is, that you may meet with a Mrs. Brisac. Could I see the lady, I think I could persuade her to let that fine face of yours be decked with smiles."

Maria joined her sister in requesting to be introduced, that they might endeavour to prevail upon her to be kind. "You know not what you ask," said Charles: "Mrs. Brisac is not young; she does not wish to be again in the world: she suffered so much from one man, that she doubts the professions of all; therefore, I think Frederic had better go to England with you, and see whether he cannot, among the fair Islanders, meet with a lady who will not be so cruel."

"I will most gladly take him there," said Fitzallan; "and, if he will place himself

himself under my care, I have not the least doubt of succeeding."

Frederic thanked them, and declined their offers; but said, he was certain the ladies would be introduced to the the Dainvilles, before they left Turin. Charles and his brother soon took their leave, and went to Mrs. Brisac. She received them with her usual politeness, but seemed much embarrassed when Frederick took her hand, and he appeared no less so; but her brother and his wife coming in, a general conversation ensued. Mr. Dainville's sisters, at whose house Mrs. Brisac had resided, a short time after her liberation from her husband, was, he found, dead. Her fortune, which was large, he had divided between Mr. Dainville and his two daughters: in consequence of this bequest, they had agreed to reside all together at Turin, especially as young

Dainville's

Dainville's lady preferred it to France. They lived, though in separate hotels, as one family.

Mr. Dainville was in high spirits, rallied his daughters much, and, when he found the Vaucluse family were arrived, said, they must go immediately and leave their names, if they could not see the ladies. He pressed this with so much earnestness, that they were fain to comply. He said, he had no idea of frivolous ceremony; they were a family he wished much to be acquainted with, and Mrs. Brisac, whose embarrasment still continued, was glad to have an excuse to leave the gentlemen. They, therefore ordered the coach, and set out. When they were gone, Charles desired the two Mr. Dainville's to accompany them back to the count, which they did. Father Gregory was still there; they were

were reciprocally introduced, and the count was, in this agreeable company, quite restored; the satisfaction which beamed upon his countenance, and that of Mr. Dainville, convinced Charles there was something passing between those gentlemen that he was unacquainted with. A long and very interesting conversation took place, respecting the society at Bononi. The count expressed a wish to become a member of it. Father Gregory said, at his return from England, he would not fail to gratify him. From that evening, the days were spent in the most agreeable manner, by the different families. The ladies had seen each other, and, had not Fitzallan been anxious to return to England, they would have been happy to have spent some time at Turin; but he was miserable at every delay, as his sister had so

earnestly pressed his return. The deranged state of Owen's affairs, he knew, would take up some time to regulate, and, till Mrs. Owen was happy, he could not think of being so himself. He, therefore, urged the departure of M. Vaucluse and father Gregory; but, at the request of the count, he was prevailed upon to defer his journey till the arrival of the prince, who was hourly expected.

On the day preceding that on which Edward meant to go, he came; and, two days after, to their amazement, the Macdonalds and Akerworths. Harry had succeeded, in kicking up, as he called it, a precious row, with Miss Frances, by telling her, he was certain she was forsaken by the prince; his scheme succeeded to his wish, and she declared, that, sooner than she would go through Italy with such an

ignorant,

ignorant, illbred, scandalous fellow, she would return to England barefoot. Finding she was determined, Mrs. Akerworth prevailed upon her husband to join the Macdonalds; for, she had been so many years accustomed to have Miss Frances manage all her domestic concerns, that she did not know how to do without her. This was a pressing argument, and the old gentleman thought it better to comply, than go on, and have nothing but wrangling and jangling all the way, as Miss Frances vowed the most terrific vengeance against Harry, for daring to say the prince had forsaken her.

Under all those weighty reasons, they had reached Turin. Young Marlbro' hastened to pay his respects, with Charles, to whom Miss Frances related her grievances; and then Harry played her off on another quarter, saying,

that she differed very widely from every lady in romance; for, she had literally run after the prince, and how shocking that was to a man of delicacy, to have the lady pursue him! He was certain the prince would think as he did, and he would advise, now she had gone so far, to keep her resentment to herself. She was so much offended at his remarks, that she declared she would box his ears. Henry hearing this, thought it best to retreat, as he was sure she would put her threats into execution. When he was gone, Charles and Marlborough did and said all they could to compose her, and at length succeeded. To Charles she listened with pleasure, as he humoured her conceit. Marlbro', she thought, favoured Henry too much, and declared, that, if he followed such an ungracious young man's example, he would make but a bad husband for the lovely Maria, or any lady else.—

They

They, however, prevailed upon her, at last, to think no more about him, but permit the ladies to pay their respects to herself and aunt. She consented, and they came; she received them in the most pompous manner, but could not help saying, She thought the prince rather ungenteel, not to wait at Florence for her final decision, whether she meant to continue there, or proceed to Rome. Instead of which, he had left it, without intimating to her when he intended to return, and assist her in the researches she was about to make, and which it would be wholly out of her power to accomplish without his aid, as she had not found a single gentleman, whose information she could depend upon like his. The ladies pleaded the cause of the prince so effectually, that she promised to forget his want of gallantry, and join in their little parties,

during the short time they had to stay.

Monsieur Dupont, who had likewise come to Turin at the request of Charles, undertook to procure her all the rare and valuable medals he could select in Italy; some few that he had in his own cabinet, which were R R R R, should be at her service. This promise perfectly reconciled her, and all was in unison immediately. Charles, Frederic, Marlbro', Fitzallan, and Henry were desired by the count to arrange a splendid entertainment, which he meant to give upon his recovery and their return that day fortnight. This they set about with alacrity, and, in two days, near three hundred cards were sent to different families residing at Turin.

While this was preparing, the old gentlemen seemed to be equally busy about

about something, which they kept with much care to themselves. The ladies were engaged in ordering dresses; but the count desired he might be permitted to choose one for Mrs. Brisac. The notaries were employed, though none but the elders knew about what. Miss Frances was determined to eclipse the whole assembly, by the splendor of her dress, and ransacked all Turin to procure the first French milliner to form it. Three days prior to that on which the *fete* was to be given, the count desired the prince, Pasquinelli, Charles, and Frederic to attend him in the library. When they entered, they were surprised at finding there Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Dainville, the doctor, and father Gregory. When they were seated, the count asked them Whether the preparations would be completed by the day appointed? They replied, Yes. "Well then," said he, "it is

now time to show you that we on our parts have not been idle, and that what we have planned to complete the festivity of the day, is in such a state of forwardness, as to want only each of your assents to finish it."

The young men looked at each other, as if to ask what the count's speech meant; but they all were ignorant of it. "Ah!" said Mr. Macdonald, "that eye enquiry won't do: you must refer to us for an explanation." Charles said, He should be extremely happy to obtain it. "Well then," returned the count, "let us see. I think you told me that nothing could so much contribute to your felicity, as being the husband of Juliana Macdonald?" I did, sir," answered he, "and I spoke the sentiments of my heart." "Then now prove it," said his father, "by giving your consent, in the

the presence of this company to receive the hand of that lady, on Wednesday next, and set your hand to these writings"—pointing to some that lay on the table.

Charles was astonished; it was a pleasure he did not expect for many months. He hesitated, stammered, and appeared absolutely confounded. "What makes you hesitate?" said his father; "if you don't like the lady, I know one that does, and will take her immediately." Charles recovering himself said, his embarrassment arose from his happiness coming so unexpectedly; if what was told him was realy meant, he should think himself blessed indeed; but he thought the lady ought to be apprised of it. "Don't trouble yourself about that," said the count; "she is informed of it by this time. I don't do things by halves; so consent with a good grace,

and have done with it." "I do indeed consent," said he.

Poor Frederic fetched a heartfelt sigh, and said softly to his brother, would to heaven I were as happy as you are." The last words were heard by his father. "That you shall be, my boy, if you will as readily consent to take the wife I have selected for you, as Charles has done." "I wish I could, sir," said he, "but that, you already know, is out of my power." "I know not any such thing," said the count; "you may be as happy as your brother, if you think proper; but you are obstinate, and reject what would insure your felicity." "Pardon me sir," replied Frederic, "I am sorry to disturb the content you promise yourself; but you are too well assured I cannot command my affections." "But suppose I command them," said the count?—"I think sir you will not

not be cruel enough to do that; you know what I have suffered already, and what you have felt yourself: therefore, pray, do not urge me: you may banish me from your presence, and the society of your friends; that I could submit to; but what you propose I cannot." "Then I promise you," said his father, "you will never be happy; for unless you give your hand to the lady I have made choice of, you see my face no more." "Be it so," answered Frederic, and he strove to suppress a tear. "I know the duty I owe to him, whom, till this moment, I always regarded as the best of fathers; but I am sensible of the duty I owe myself, and shall beg leave to be permitted to quit this roof for ever.

"So saying, he was about to leave the room, when the count desired to ask him one question, before he went. "Would you" said he "be so obstinatly

bent on refusiug to become a bride-groom, if the daughter of this gentleman could be brought to accept you, with all your perverseness. "That, sir, said Frederic, "is a subject, I dare not dwell upon; what is impossible to expect, I will not admit." "There is no impossibilily in the case," said his father.—"Pardon me, sir, I cannot admit of what I don't believe, and I beg you will permit me to retire."

Mr. Dainville then spoke, and said, he knew not what he should say to his daughter, as he had undertaken to gain the consent of Frederic to receive her as his wife, at the express desire of the count, an honor he had been little led to expect, and his daughter had been brought to believe that his attachment to her had ever been sincere, and she had given her consent, in consequence of it, to give her hand to him at the same

same time Charles received that of Miss Macdonald.

Frederic and Charles appeared thunderstruck. All they had heard seemed by the power of magic: however, they were, at last, made sensible, that what Mr. Dainville said was true, and that Mrs. Brisac, at the earnest wish of the count, consented to become the wife of Frederic, and reside with her father-in-law, whose happiness, in future, depended on this union. Frederic, who, but a few minutes before was wishing for annihilation, was now, as if restored from death to life. He fell at the feet of his father, and invoked a thousand blessings on his head. When he was a little composed, his father told him, he must stay and hear that somebody else was to be happy as well as himself. "Oh! for the Almighty's sake,

sake," said he, "make every one so; for, you only possess the talent of doing it."

Mr. Macdonald then addressed signor Pasquinelli. "Your merit, sir," said he, "first attracted the notice of my sister-in-law; her fortune is ample, and, as I approve her choice, and his highness yours, I have to inform you, that, at the same time which presents the count with two daughters, I shall be happy to give you the hand of my sister; and, believe me, I shall rejoice in seeing you both happy."

The signor endeavoured to express by words what he felt, but his looks plainly evinced the gratitude of his heart. The prince took him by the hand, and said: "If you are the worthy man I think you, regard me in future as your brother and your friend." This was too

too much, and, to hide the tear of gratitude, he abruptly quitted the room. To describe the happiness of all present would be useless; each enjoyed the prospect of felicity which was opening to view. The count was as happy as his sons. The goodness of his heart was such, that nothing so largely contributed to his peace, as the tranquillity of others. Mr. Dainville, the doctor, and father Gregory, participated in his joy; but none more so than Mr. Dainville, at the hope of his favorite child's happiness. The prince desired he might be permitted to attend the gentlemen to the ladies, to apprise them of what had passed, and solicit the honor of being one of the bridesmen. For the joke's sake, he said, he should desire the hand of Miss Francis in the dance.

The day preceeding the happy one was spent by the ladies in arranging the

the particulars of their dress for the ball. Mrs. Brisac, at her earnest request, went to the altar in a plain suit of white taffety. Mrs. Macdonald's the same; but her niece was more elegantly dressed, in a white robe ornamented with silver crescents; her hair bound in with a crape and silver net. The bridal dresses for the evening were strikingly splendid. That selected for Mrs. Brisac by the count was a rich gold striped crape, most beautifully ornamented with embroidery of myrtle and roses. The head dress, a chaplet of the same, braided in by a string of pearls—pearl necklace and earrings. Mrs. Macdonald's was white satin with gold rosebuds; her head dress, an embroidered handkerchief, in gold, a la turque; diamond necklace and earrings. Miss Frances's was superb beyond description, but more calculated to dis-

play

play profusion than taste or elegance. The Miss Vaucluses chose robes of white spangled taffety; their hair, of which they had a profusion, was braided with pearls. Mrs. Vaucluse's, a plain suit of white sattin trimmed with silver fur. Mrs. Macdonald's similar, Mrs. Akerworth's ditto, but without fur. The lady of the beach, an English dress of white sattin and crape, intermixed with gold stripes. A bandeau of diamonds, neclace and earrings of the same. The junior madame Dainville's was the counterpart. The gentlemen were all plain, but elegantly dressed. A grand cavalcade of coaches attended them to church, which was so immensely thronged, that it was with the greatest difficulty they could return.

The gentlemen had ordered a hundred

dred guineas to be distributed among the poor in the neighbourhood of the count's hotel, and the like number in that of Mr. Dainville's. M. Dainville junior had the direction of it; his lady added twenty guineas to the bequest. The day and evening flew on rapid wings; Miss Frances was in raptures, at the admiration she thought her person and dress excited, but which was in reality directed to the preposterous decorations of it.

Henry, ever mischievous, longed to play her a trick, for which purpose, he got a young man, of a disposition similar to his own, to pretend to be most violently in love with her, and to resent the attentions paid her by the prince, whom he knew to be fairly tired of his partner. This friend of Harry's no sooner saw the prince had quitted Miss Frances, which Henry had previously desired

desired him to do, than he hastened up to pay his devoirs, and request the honor of attending her, till her partner's return, which he took care should not be soon. She was delighted with his compliments, and was never in such good humour, every thing conspiring, as she thought, to gain her admiration. She entered into the most familiar discourse with him, and he so ingratiated himself into her favor, as to prevail on her to dance with him the remainder of the evening.

They had danced near a quarter of an hour, when the prince, who had received his instructions from Harry, returned, and demanded his partner. The gentleman refused to give her up; an altercation took place, which ended in a challenge for the next morning. The prince withdrew and joined the company in another room. The bustle

this

this seeming fracas occasioned afforded an infinite fund of mirth to those who were in the plot, and even to those that were not so; many wondered at the strange taste of the prince before, and many more afterwards were not less surprised that such a strange incomprehensible person, as Miss Frances, should so far have captivated such a young and handsome man, as to induce him to call out a person, every way his inferior. No one seemed to envy him his conquest, but the young man who then possessed the hand of the lady, and who appeared determined to keep it.

This was no small affair for Miss Frances to plume herself upon, when she saw two of the finest young men in the assembly contending for her hand. She looked round with the most ineffable contempt on those ladies who

prided

prided shemselves on their accomplishments, youth and beauty, and who thought themselves more entitled to admiration than herself. Harry went up to her when the bustle had a little subsided, and said, the prince was so much offended, that he meant, as soon as he had chasti ed her partner for his presumption, to leave Turin, and pretended to be much displeased with his friend for presuming to rival a gentleman so much his superior.

Miss Frances desired Harry to leave them, and not trouble himself about what did not concern him; he had a lady of his own to a tend to, and she thought she was of years of discretion enough to choose for herself. "Besides," said she, "did not the prince offend me, by his departure from Florence, without once consulting me, or saying when he would return? That was a breach

breach of gallantry, I think, and you have rather added to his impertinence; but, if you have not spirit enough to resent his behaviour, this gentleman has, and I have not the least doubt that he will prove himself well deserving of the good opinion I have formed of him; so do, pray, Harry, go along, mind your own party, and don't trouble yourself either about me, or this gentleman, who, I am certain, knows how to chastise insolence." "I leave you, madam," said Henry, bowing, "but recollect that your favorite will have more than one to draw his sword with." The gentleman bowed and said, he was welcome to bring half a dozen, if he chose, he should certainly be ready to meet them in such a glorious cause, and those that were brave alone deserved the fair. Henry smiled, "you talk well, sir, I hope your deeds will support your words. If so, I'm your man. By

By this time, a considerable crowd had gathered round them, and Henry finding he had succeeded to his wish, left the room; and the lady enjoyed her triumph. The evening was spent in great festivity, and every one returned to their houses, fully pleased with the elegance and hospitality of the entertainment.

The next day, the duel was the talk of the whole city; every one was anxious to know whether they would venture to fight on so ridiculous a subject, but it was soon found that it had been amicably adjusted, the prince having resigned all right to the lady, who was equally well pleased with the one as the other, and he had left Turin, that the young man might enjoy his conquest without interruption. But this departure of the prince, had been preconcerted, and the whole of the count's

and

and the Dainville's family were apprised of it, as he had to meet father Theodore at Geneva, on business that would detain him some time at that place, but which he hoped to finish by the time the Vaucluse and Macdonald families could join him. He took an affectionate leave of his friends, with a faithful promise of spending some time with them at his return, which he hoped would be in about six weeks. Miss Frances declared she was happy at his departure, as she found more polite attention paid to her by the young gentleman, than the prince was capable of offering to any lady.

The count, whose happiness and health were now perfectly restored, began to plan the establishment of his sons. His eldest he proposed should return with his lady to the family domains, while the count chose to reside

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at Turin with his son Frederic, with whom he promised himself much felicity, as father Gregory had agreed to return and introduce him to the society at Bononi, in which he was more than ever anxious to be enrolled. Pasquinelli and his lady were to accompany Charles and his Juliana to Sweden, and then return to spend their days at Florence, to which place the Dainville family meant to go, when father Gregory and father Theodore returned, and which was intended to be with the prince. M. Dupont being urged by Charles, consented to go with him to Stockholm.

This arranged, Fitzallan hurried M. Vaucluse, and in three days, father Gregory, his son Edward, and the Vaucluse family left Turin with a determination not to stop for any time, (unless any accident happened), till he

reached England. The Macdonald and Akerworth families meant to stay some little time longer. The count was very unwilling to part with them; but the necessity there was for Fitzallan's return made him avoid pressing their longer stay, and they parted amidst the good wishes of all. They were to meet the Macdonalds in London. They reached Geneva four days after the prince had arrived there: he had finished the business he had come upon, and father Theodore was to accompany him to England. They stayed but a short time at Geneva: Fitzallan was quite happy at the accident of father Theodore's being to accompany them; he was a man whom every one spoke well of. The mildness of his character, and benevolent disposition, endeared him to all. The prince placed the most unlimited confidence in him. It was evident he had seen trouble, that had sunk deeply into his heart.

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He frequently appeared lost in deep meditation, though he would soon recollect himself and be cheerful.

They left Geneva for Bern the next day, and then proceeded to Basle, where they intended to stop one day; but changed their minds, and continued their route to Strasburg, Deuxponts, and Treves, at which place they rested, as M. Vaucluse had a relation there, prioress of a convent, and it was resolved to stop three days at that place. The ladies and M. Vaucluse paid their respects to the lady St. Julia, whom they found hastening fast to the world of peace. She took leave of them for ever soon after their arrival. They were detained, out of respect to this lady, two days longer than they intended; however, they felt a satisfaction in having seen her. In the evening of the fourth day she died. Father Theodore asked some

questions respecting the lady Julia, and expressed a wish to know whether she had not a sister, that died about twenty years before, in a convent at Namur; M. Vaucluse said, yes. "Would to God then," said he, "I had been happy enough to see this lady, though it might have torn open wounds, that I could wish for ever to be closed, still I would have risked all, could I have once been blessed with the sight of *her*, in whose arms my suffering Victoria died."

"Victoria! did you say," asked Vaucluse. "Yes, said the father, "my long lost murdered Victoria."

"Good God! you cannot sure be the gentleman to whom that lady was engaged."

"Yes, I am the same wretched, unhappy, Durbanne, who lost that angel, and

and my peace for ever, by the vilest treachery; but the God of mercies is just."

"You will oblige me much," said Vaucluse, "if it would not give you too much pain, to inform me by what means that lady died, as I was told, some years ago, that she came not fairly by her death."

"You were informed right, sir; I will tell you a few particulars of my unhappy story, though it will afford you very little entertainment.

"My father was by birth an Englishman, nearly related to an ancient family in that kingdom. At the time James of England abdicated the throne, my father, a very young man, followed the fortunes of that monarch, more out of regard to a beautiful lady of the

court, who had gone with her royal mistress to St. Germains, than to any attachment that he bore the king. This lady was by birth an Italian. His family disliked her, and he was informed by them, as soon as it was known where he was, that, if he did not return and swear allegiance to Mary, he would be regarded as an alien to his family, and be disinherited accordingly. The threats of his parents had no weight with him; he continued in France, and shortly after married the lady, changed his name, and became naturalized to that country. He received an appointment at the court of St. Germains, and continued there till the death of the queen of James.

"This caused a great change in the affairs of my father; he had but little money, and less expectations. He left the court, and went to Versailles, where

I was born. Soon after, with the little he had left, he embarked for the West Indies, where he had been led to expect a lucrative employment, but found his hopes, on his arrival, vanish into air. This was too much for my mother to support, and she fell a victim to her feelings. My father survived her but a short time, and I was left an orphan, in a country, where even the name of my parents was scarcely known. The humanity of one of the planters took me under his protection, till an opportunity should offer of sending me to France. He gathered from the effects my parents left at their death, the sum of three hundred pounds. This he carefully preserved for me, and a family soon after returning to France, he sent me home, with orders to have me placed under the care of a distant relation of his at Soissons: with the interest of my little pittance,

the good man discharged the duties of the best of parents; I was educated, fed, and cloathed, as if I had been to inherit an elegant fortune.

" I saw not my benefactor, till I had attained my twelfth year, when he returned to France. He appeared much pleased with me, and the proficiency I had made in every branch of learning. He asked me many questions concerning my inclinations, whether they tended to merchandise, or the army. My father, for such I had been taught to call him, had been destined to trade, from his infancy; but his mind had ever revolted from it. The will of his parents were to be obeyed; he was obliged to submit, and at the age of sixteen, was sent to one of the colonies, where he had been five years, when my father arrived. He was the first to shew him attention and respect, and, when

when the failure of his hopes came, he was the first to pity and condole with him.

"Seeing the helpless situation I was left in, he was resolved to become my father and protector. I was sent home to France, as his own son, and it was generally believed I was so, though it was known he was not married. Upon examining me, he found I had no particular predilection for any pursuit; I was ready to be guided by him in every thing: this docility pleased him, though he would, he said, have been happier to have seen me evince an attachment to one thing more than another. I delighted in books, and, if I could be furnished with them, as fast as I read, I was happy. He, therefore, placed me under the tuition of a father, whose judgment and learning he could rely on. His business calling him

again abroad, I was to remain under his instruction three years, and then, he hoped, I would make my election; but, before that period arrived, ill health brought my more than father to his native country.

"I had seven months unexpired of the time intended to complete my studies, but, finding I had made an improvement greater than he expected, he chose that I should quit them, and be altogether with him. He went to Paris for medical advice; I attended him there. It was some months before any visible change for the better took place. At last, however, his constitution got the better of his disease, and I had the felicity of seeing him restored to health; but he declined going out again to his former situation, and turned his mind to the improvement of the fortune he had acquired. He had a taste for

for agriculture, and purchased an estate in the neighbourhood of Versailles, and went to reside on it. To this place he took me, and seemed to enjoy a secret pleasure in teaching me any thing I wished to acquire.

"We had been in this happy retreat near three years, when a family came to reside near us, upon a domain left them by distant relation. They consisted of a gentleman, his wife, and four daughters, the youngest about fourteen; all pleasing young women, and, in a short time, came another family. They had been acquainted at Paris with the former, whose name was Vaucluse, the other's Glacier. An intimacy soon took place between both of them and my father. The urbanity of his manners, and the independence in which he lived, induced many to seek an acquaintance with him, and,

as I was regarded as his son, my company was sought after by all who had daughters to settle. The Glaciers had two, and one son; they were reputed to be large fortunes; the son was a captain in the Swiss guard, a young man of the most licentious and abandoned principles; he was near seven and twenty, but unmarried. He had been handsome, when about twenty; but vice had stripped him of all his charms.

He had been but a few days in our society, when he desired me to assist him in an amour, which he wished to form with one of the daughters of Vauchuse. Those ladies I had never considered in any particular manner, except the third daughter, who, I thought, possessed the preeminence; her name was Victoria. I had, I thought, discovered in her a taste similar to my own, and, as I saw

I saw it gave my father pleasure to see us together, I attached myself more to her than to any other. Draxa, which was the name of the second, frequently shewed evident signs of discontent. If I spoke to her, her answers were short, and carried with them a vindictive kind of tone. If I had occasion to ask her for an explanation of any thing, she would hastily say, 'ask Victoria, she is best able in inform you.'

"I was long at a loss to account for her singular behaviour; and not being conscious of having offended her, gave myself no trouble about it. But she knew what I was ignorant of myself, that I loved her sister, and that she was tenderly attached to me. Young Glacier soon convinced me of it. It was Victoria he had pitched upon, as the object of his gallantry. The moment he mentioned her, I felt that I

loved

loved with the greatest ardor. I was fondly led to hope I was not indifferent to her; a thousand little incidents occurred to my remembrance, to flatter the illusion. I lost not a moment to inform my father of it, fearing that my rival, from the power he boasted to possess, would tear her from me. I laid open the state of my heart, and earnestly implored him, if he approved my choice, that he would not delay to make known my passion to M. Vaucluse, and solicit his consent to our union. "You are too warm and impetuous," said he; "but the ardor of youth is excusable; moderate your passions, and strive to keep them under the guidance of reason. If the young lady is as much attached to you, as you imagine, you need not fear the power of a rival. She has, I think, too much good sense to be lured by the appearance of grandeur, or deceived by splendor.

dor. Fear not this Glacier; if she has the least delicacy, she must reject him with contempt. I will see her father; but things of this nature must not be done in a hurry; be composed, and rest on my endeavours to make you happy."

"This was the language of that good man; he fondly thought that avarice and ambition had no more weight with others than with him. Ah! how much was he deceived. I asked him, before I left him, if I had his full consent to address Victoria. He assured me I had, and that he should use his interest to see us united. I flew to the idol of my heart; I found her alone. She had been weeping; I implored her to tell me the occasion; she declined it; but the earnest manner in which I urged my request, at length, prevailed, and she informed me, that,

for

for above three weeks, young Glacier had pestered her with letters, stating the violent passion he entertained for her, and requesting she would grant him an interview, unknown to her friends, as he had something of the greatest moment to impart to her, but she had returned the last unopened, with a positive refusal to meet him. That morning, he had been to her parents, and formally demanded leave to address her. He had made such proposals, as had induced them to enter into his views, and they had compelled her to see him. This was what made her so unhappy, as she had taken a violent dislike to him, from the first sight.

"I lost not a moment to speak comfort to her, and, without the least reserve, told her what had passed between my father and myself, and earnestly besought

sought her to say, whither I might hope for her concurrence. The joy that sparkled in her eyes, plainly spoke her assent. I pressed her to my bosom with rapture; she acknowledged her attachment, and confessed that she had long loved me; that her sister Draxa had discovered her weakness, and had not been backward in reproaching her, for her attachment to a man, totally indifferent to her. It was this observation of her sister's, that had occasioned the tears I found her in. She said, she had that morning, told Glacier, without the least reserve, that her determination was fixed, never to receive him in the light of a future husband, as she would prefer a convent to a marriage with a person her heart could never approve. He said, that he admired her frankness, but should never give up the hope of making himself agreeable

ble to her; therefore should wait upon her again in the evening.

"The pleasing and unaffected manner in which the dear girl related what had passed, convinced me I was secure of her love, and that nothing but absolute force would compell her to become the wife of a man, whom almost every one regarded with contempt. However, I could not help being uneasy at the influence his offers might have over the inclinations of her parents. I left my Victoria, after two hours conversation, with a promise that I would be with her again early in the evening. In the mean time, I was led to hope my father would see her parents, and that the offers he would make would be such as to induce them to prefer me to my rival. But lovers are ever too sanguine, and, from that hour, I have dated every misery of my life.

"When

sought her to say, whither I might hope for her concurrence. The joy that sparkled in her eyes, plainly spoke her assent. I pressed her to my bosom with rapture; she acknowledged her attachment, and confessed that she had long loved me; that her sister Draxa had discovered her weakness, and had not been backward in reproaching her, for her attachment to a man, totally indifferent to her. It was this observation of her sister's, that had occasioned the tears I found her in. She said, she had that morning, told Glacier, without the least reserve, that her determination was fixed, never to receive him in the light of a future husband, as she would prefer a convent to a marriage with a person her heart could never approve. He said, that he admired her frankness, but should never give up the hope of making himself agreeable

offers are more splendid than mine, and, of course, you are rejected; but he offers you the choice of either of his other daughters, and especially recommends the second. I think her name is Draxa; she has avowed a partiality for you, but I cannot, for my own part, think her so amiable as the one you have chosen. However, as it is, I wish you may be able to conquer your regard for this lady, as I am certain it will be attended with unpleasant circumstances, if you persevere, as the father is not, by any means, the man I took him for."

"My heart was wrung with anguish at what my father related. I informed him of all that had passed between me and Victoria. He more than ever admired her, and applauded me for rejecting with contempt her sister. He desired me not to go there again; but,

when I urged the promise I had made, to be there that evening, he consented; but begged it might be the last time, as he should be hurt if I were desired by her parents to omit my visits. I said, he might depend upon it, that it should be so. "I will rely upon your honor," said he, "and, for this once, you may go. I pity the poor girl, but I fear you will not be able to serve her." I passed the two hours, which intervened from that time to the hour I was to see Victoria, in the most raking misery. The farther I was about to be removed from her, the more anxious I was to be near her. I devised a thousand schemes, to circumvent the designs of Glacier; but they appeared, upon the least reflection, futile, and impossible to be realized. I traversed the room with hasty strides; at last, the time came; I hastened to Vaucluse's, and passed on to the room I

was

was to see Victoria in. She was not there; Draxa received me.

"Where is Victoria?"

"She is engaged, Sir."

"I have something particular to say, cannot I see her?"

"You cannot, sir; she is engaged with Mr. Glacier."

"Glacier!" said I, "is he here?"

"Yes, he is, and by the appointment of my father; he has made a proposal for my sister, which cannot be rejected, and I have not the least doubt but, in a few days, you will see her his wife."

"That will never be," said I, "she cannot

cannot, she never will forget her faith to me."

"So then," said she, with a malicious smile on her face, "she is, as I always thought, engaged to you; but you will find a girl's engagements will have no weight, when opposed to that of a parent. Besides, I see no repugnance on the part of Victoria to receive the addresses of M. Glacier. The alliance will do her honor."

"I will not pretend to dispute the honor that will accrue to the family by such an union; but I cannot be brought to believe, that the soul of Victoria can think that the honor of an alliance with a family is a sufficient to eradicate all ties entered into, before this man was known, or his alliance either."

"Those, sir, are circumstances not

to

to be discussed by me; 'tis sufficient for her to know the duty she owes her family, in preference to idle engagements, entered into without the concurrence of those, who alone have a right to direct her choice, in a point so material to her future happiness."

"I am sorry to have a lady talk thus, but as you say, it is not a point for you or me to discuss, I will drop the subject, and enter on some other topic, till I can have the pleasure of seeing your sister."

"That pleasure you will not have, sir, as I have orders from my father to tell you, that the nature of my sister's engagements will in future be such, as to put it wholly out of her power to receive you again; and, as your visits were hitherto paid to *her*, your company at this house will be dispensed with."

I looked

"I looked at her with amazement. "It is impossible," said I; "your father could not give orders for such a message to be delivered to me. In what have I offended him!" "In nothing," retorted she, "but your pretensions to my sister." "Pretensions to your sister!" said I; "and could that possibly offend, when your father and your whole family, solicited the acquaintance of my father and myself?"

"People's opinions, sir," said she, vary with circumstances. My sister had not then those offers she now has."

"Your ideas, madam," said I, "are much too low, and too sordid; I can only tell you, that I despise them; and as I shall certainly disgrace mine by any farther conversation, I shall beg leave to bid you a good evening." So saying, I abrubtly quitted the room,

and hurried home to my father. I threw myself into a chair, and gave vent to the feelings of my heart, in a shower of tears. My father saw me with the deepest concern, and when I became a little composed, reasoned with me. He pointed out the folly I should be guilty of, in giving way to my dissappointment. He said, he was certain that Glacier's wish to possess Victoria arose more from a desire to rival me, than any real attachment to her, and that the only way to overreach the designs of such a man, was, without any apparent uneasiness to give up the subject of contest, when he would soon grow tired of the pursuit, and, instead of fulfilling his engagements, be the first to break them.

"I listened with eagerness to all he said; but could not bring myself to give up the thoughts of my Victoria, and

and I determined, at all events, to get a letter conveyed to her, stating what had passed, and imploring her to let me know her situation, and how I could serve her. I earnestly besought her to contrive, by some means or other, to let me see her, if it was but for a few moments. I waited several days before I received an answer; in it, she informed me, that she was confined to her bed, occasioned by the agitation of her mind; that it would be impossible for me to see her; but I might depend upon her faith, and that she would prefer death to being Glacier's wife. She intreated me to adopt my father's advice, put an air of indifference respecting her, and mix in company, without betraying any concern on her account, and she would take care to inform me of any thing that occured. She concluded by saying, that she

held the promise she made to me sacred, and nothing but death should break it.

"I shewed the letter to my father; it pleased him, and he desired me to abide by its contents, and wait the event in silence. He admired the sweetness of her temper, and fondly hoped he should, one day, see her my wife. I resolved to be guided by him in every thing, and, instead of appearing concerned at the rumor of Victoria's approaching marriage, I visited every where with gaiety. We heard of nothing else; my father contented himself with saying, he hoped the young lady would be happy, and I echoed the same.

I continued for three weeks to receive from my Victoria repeated promises of fidelity. In the last which I ever received from her, she said, that her father had just been with her, and said,

said that he had fixed that day fortnight for her marriage, as they had some reason to think M. Glacier would be obliged to go to Paris, and they were resolved it should take place before he went; but she bid me rest in firm confidence, that she would sooner die than be his wife, and she had every reason to hope she should find some means to escape from her father's house, before the time came, and that she would not fail to let me know what place she should fly to. If possible, she thought to try to get to Namur, where she had a relation, who had lately taken the veil, and she was in hopes if she could get there, the sanctity of the place would secure her from violence; and, if she could not be mine, she would become a nun; but, let what would happen, she would not fail to inform me.

"After receiving this letter, I was like one distracted. I hoped, yet dreaded every thing; a kind of terror and apprehension hung over me. My father had the same, and would often say, how happy he should be, if she was in a place of safety. I passed day after day, in the greatest anxiety, hourly expecting a letter, but none arrived. At last, about three days prior to that appointed by her father to seal her misery, my servant, who had been out to endeavour to see the girl that waited on Victoria, returned and said, the greatest consternation prevailed at the Vaucluse's; for, the young lady had made her escape, and I was condemned for being an accomplice in it, and he would advise me to go and make known my innocence to the magistrate, or adopt any method to secure myself from the vengeance of the malicious family.

mily, who said every thing they could to prejudice every one against me.

"My father was out, when the poor fellow brought me this relation. I rejoiced most heartily at her escape, and began to hope every thing. My father came in soon after; he appeared much concerned, and said, "I think you have much to dread from the malice of disappointed pride; I would, therefore, have you go to Paris immediately;" they can do nothing against me." I said, it was impossible they could think of implicating me; and, if they did, my innocence would soon be apparent. "You are ignorant, my boy," said he, "to what extent this fellow's malice may be carried. I, therefore, beg that you will not delay a moment."

"I consented, though reluctantly, to his request, and was preparing to go, when an officer entered, and pre-

sented a lettre de cachet—I was taken away, and conveyed to the Bastille;

"My father followed me to Paris, to prove my innocence. For two months, he tried, by every means in his power, to obtain my discharge; but all proved ineffectual, and I was confined near eight months, before I was permitted to see him. That blessed moment, at length came, and, in a fortnight after, I obtained my release. What I had suffered had worn me to a skeleton, and, when I came out of the coach, at the hotel where my father lodged, I fainted, and continued for several days scarcely able to speak. At last I recovered, and, though I longed to ask a thousand questions, yet I dreaded to receive an answer. The anxiety I was under checked my recovering strength, and I determined, at last, to beg of him to inform me of the

the worst. "If Victoria is the wife of Glacier, let me, I beseech you, know at once."

"If to know that she is *not* will give you any satisfaction, I can assure you of it," said my father.

"Say that she is in safety, and she has not forgot me," said I, "is all I will ask."

"She did remain faithful to the——" and here he paused.

"To the what? Oh! my God, then she is surely married?"

"Not in this world, but...."

"But what? surely they have not murdered her?" He was silent.

"In pity, tell me," cried I, "what

can all this mean. Oh! rack not my heart, but let me know the worst. Have they destroyed the sweetest flower that ever blowed?"

"I fear they have; if you will be composed, and harken to me, I will tell you all that I have learnt, since you were taken from me."

"I promised to listen with composure, but my heart ill accorded with that promise. As soon as I appeared to attend, he said: "Immediately on your being put into the carriage, I ordered my horses, and hastened after you, with all the speed I could make, and came up with the coach within a league of Paris. I saw you enter the Bastille; I would have given worlds to have been permitted to enter with you. I came the next day, but was denied admittance. I went to the different offices,

offices, to gain an order, but could not obtain it. For two months I wearied every one with applications; but they were alike unsuccessful. I could neither see you, nor learn the cause of your confinement. Tired out with repeated endeavours, I resolved to find out to what place Victoria had fled; in this I was alike disappointed. I spent three months in journies, from my own house to Paris, and from Paris back again. Glacier was gone from his father's, and had again plunged into every vice. The loss of the lady seemed not to hurt him; but he still boasted of what he should do when she was found.

He kept a mistress at Paris, that reigned over him with the most tyrannic sway. This woman I found means to be introduced to, being led to hope that she could give me some intelligence of

Victoria. I told her, in a few words, my business, and intreated her, if she knew were she was, that she would, out of pity to you, inform me, that I might be enabled to obtain your liberty. She heard me out, and then said, if I was sincere, in what I told her and would promise to get the lady, and immediately make her the wife of my son, she would find means to let me know where she might be found. I faithfully promised; she then told me, that if I wrote to a certain person at Namur, I should know in what convent the lady then was. I left her, and wrote directly. I waited nine days, and at length a letter came, informing me, that the lady mentioned in my letter had been in a convent of carmelite nuns, about three months before; but he believed she was then dead, as he had heard as much about ten weeks past.

I lost

I lost no time in hastening to the place; I reached it, presented myself at the grate, and desired admission to the superior. It was granted. I requested her to inform me if such a lady had been there. She said yes, there had been such a one, but was sorry to tell me, that she had fallen a victim to the malice of some unknown person, near three months before. She had seemed to be happy in her situation till at length some letters came, one adressed to her, and another to the then Prioress, who was ill, and one of the sisters officiated for her. That letter was from her father, and seemed to speak the deepest resentment against his daughter, saying, that he would never forgive her, but should insist upon her entering on her noviciate directly. The other was from one of her sisters, written with the greatest acrimony, and informing her, that her favorite was safely lodged in the

the Bastille. She read the letter over several times, and the other lady did the same. Miss Vaucluse, she said, being near sighted, had held it close to her face, but the other had not. They were both, in the course of an hour, seized with a giddiness in the head, and violent spasms. Miss Vaucluse's was attributed to the uneasiness she felt, at her lover being confined. Her complaints every moment increased; the other lady's were much less violent, though the symptoms were exactly the same. Medical advice was procured; as soon as the doctor saw them, he pronounced it out of his power to save Miss Vaucluse, as she was poisoned; but the other lady he could, and did preserve. Miss Vaucluse expired two hours after, in the arms of a lady, a near relation of hers, who had been a nun some years. An express was instantly sent off to Versailes to her father with a particular account of her death,

and

and requesting him to make a proper enquiry; but, instead of taking any steps for that purpose, he only sent a draft for her expences, and said, that her death he regarded as a punishment from heaven, for her disobedience to his commands. "Thus then," said the lady, "every wish of the superior and Miss Vaucluse's relation was frustrated, and the perpetrators were left to enjoy the success of their diabolical scheme.

"I heard her out," said my father, "with tolerable composure. I then asked her, if I might be permitted to take with me an attestation of the facts, as it might be the means of getting you liberated. She consented, and, as soon as I had obtained it, I set off for Paris. I hastened to the mistress of Glacier, and imparted to her the whole I had learnt. She appeared much shocked at my relation, and said, she could

would take care that you should get your liberty, and, as soon as you were out, she would advise me to set on foot an enquiry, and she would assist me with all her power. She bid me draw up a full statement of the case, and let her have it, and she would effect your release. I complied; the next day, I had an order to be admitted to see you, and twelve days after, another for your liberation. You are now, my dear son, to exert yourself, and become the avenger of the innocent. Learn to command your feelings, and assist me in bringing the guilty to punishment."

"I heard my father out in a kind of stupid horror, out of which he could not rouse me. For several days, I continued lost to every thing; at length, an order came, for him to attend the office of justice, and confirm personally what he had been told at Namur. This had

had the desired effect; I was roused in a moment from my lethargy, and hastened to the office with him; though I was obliged to be supported, while I was there, as I had become so weak, I could with difficulty stand for a moment. I was interrogated, relative to the last conversation I had with Victoria, and the promise she made me of corresponding with me. I gave up the few letters I received from her; my father's attestation was taken; and he was bound to prove, as the accuser of M. Vaucluse, and his second daughter Draxa, that they were the murderers of Victoria. They were secured, and proceedings commenced against them; but, a short time before their trial, the whole was suspended by the sudden death of Draxa; previous to which, she had made a confession, that *she* was alone guilty of the death

death of her sister, and her father totally innocent. Her deposition ran thus.

"She had been stimulated to it by a passion she entertained for me. It was through her that matters with Glacier had been carried to the extreme they had. As long as she had hopes that her sister would be his wife, she formed no other plan: but when Victoria made her escape, and Glacier took no steps to recover her, she was determined to discover the place of her retreat. Fearing I should anticipate her, and make Victoria my wife, she persuaded Glacier and her father to procure a lettre de cachet for me: it was executed as I have related. She then set a person to bring all letters directed for either my father or myself, to her; and by that means, discovered the place her sister had fled to, by a letter she sent

sent to me. The contents were, that she had effected her escape, and was at Namur, under the protection of a relation of her father's, at a convent of carmelite nuns. She said, it was her intention to continue there, till her father's pleasure should be known, to whom she had written, stating her reasons for the step she had taken, and her full determination to take the veil, rather than be Glacier's wife; and, as the little fortune her grandmother had left her, independent of her parents, was sufficient for her admission, she would never again return to Versailles, as it was impossible for her to be happy with any other man, than him she had pledged her faith to.

"Draxa said, that this letter she took to her father, who had just received the one mentioned in it. When he had read it, he seemed disposed to

write

write to her in a style, which, though it severely condemned her, yet she thought inclined to wave the pretensions of Glacier, and favor me. The very thought of it drove her to madness, and she so far worked upon her father, as to induce him to write the letter he sent. As she could not help fearing that I might gain my liberty and obtain her sister, she had planned the scheme to poison her, having read of a drug, that could be sent by powder in a letter, whose effects were of such a poignant nature, that the person who read it never lived above six hours after. She procured it, and, having taken proper precautions, herself, rubbed the letter with it, and folded some up in it. She sent it away, without once considering whether it might be fatal to any other person or not. She knew the necessity her sister had of holding, either writing or reading

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ing, close to her face, and, from that circumstance, never doubted its effects, as no one could possibly guess at the cause of her death. She hoped I should, when I was convinced of her loss, be perhaps brought to pay my addresses to herself, especially as it was the wish of her father. Full of those presumptive hopes, she sent it, and heard the death of her sister with pleasure; but, conscious of what she had done, prevailed upon her father not to trouble himself, to enquire in what manner she came by her end. It was sufficient, she told him, that her disobedience had been so soon followed by such a punishment from heaven. Her mother, who always said and did every thing as her father chose, grieved for an hour or two, and then thought of it no more. Her death had been kept secret in the family, and not even Glacier had been made acquainted with it.

"She

"She said, since she had been in custody, the enormity of her crime, and the danger her father was in, had roused her to a sense of her guilt; and as she could not bear the thoughts of appearing before a public tribunal, she had, while writing that, placed some more of the poison on the paper before her; and, while she wrote, she was beginning to be sensible of its effects. She earnestly implored mine and her father's forgiveness, for the misery she had occasioned us; and, as she had no fear of a future state, never having believed in any, she should die without any violent apprehensions of where she was to go, or be hereafter. She desired we would give ourselves no kind of concern about her, as it was wholly indifferent to her what became of her soul.

This confession was found about three hours

hours previous to her death, during the time she was writing the last three or four lines. It appeared, from the form of the letters that she must have been very much convulsed, as many of the words were unconnected. She had, it seemed, desired to have pen and ink brought and to be left alone for a few hours. Her request was complied with; but, being a considerable time longer alone than she at first desired to be, the man that attended on her went to the cell, and found her extended on the floor, in the agonies of death. On the table lay the confession and a small phial of pale brown powder. It appeared as though she had fallen from her seat, as the pen was still between her fingers. She was taken up and assistance got; but nothing could save her. A few minutes before she expired, her speech returned, and with great earnestness, she heard that those near her would pray for her.

They

They did; but, in the midst of the prayers, she started up and exclaimed, "I know it, I know it, you need not shew it me. There is, there is a Hell, oh! save me, save me; pray for me; keep me, in mercy keep me from it. But oh! it opens to receive me; it spreads its gaping jaws; ah! they are advancing; must I enter? must I be pluuged headlong? oh! save me, save me! A stong convulsion seized her, and amidst the most dreadful agonies, she breathed her last.

The doctor took the phial, examined it and declared the powder contain in it had occasioned her death, as it was an Italian poison of the most subtile nature. Her father was soon informed of the catastrophe, and that, as he was declared innocent by his daughter's confession, he would soon be at liberty to leave the prison; but the shock he had before recived, added to this horrible

rible event, had such an effect upon him that he lived but three hours after his unhappy child".

My father, who was at Versailles at the time, was sent for at Paris immediately. He found, on his arrival, that I had been informed of all. He endeavoured to speak comfort to me. I listened to him; but his reasoning had no effect. I was lost to every thing for many months. At length, my reason returned, when my heart was torn with anguish to see the emaciated form of my more than father, who had watched over me with the most unremitting attention. I gazed at him with the most poignant sorrow, and blamed myself severely for not attending to his advice. I roused all the dormant faculties of my soul, and became determined to abide by every thing that he should say. When he found my reason returned, he re-

joiced over me with all the tenderness of the best of parents. He sought to amuse me by every means in his power, and succeeded so well, that, in a short time, I was perfectly restored.'

"I then, in my turn, endeavoured to amuse him and repay, by my attentions, the many blessings I derived from him. He never mentioned a word that might recal my former sorrows, and time enabled me to forget them. We lived at Versailles, in the most retired manner, for nine years, when my best beloved and everlamented benefactor died. He left me his sole heir, but unable to remain in a place that continually reminded me of the loss of all that I held dear in life, I hastened to quit it. I went to Florence and became a member of the mendicant society of St. Jerome. I had not been long there before I was solicited to become a brother

of

of the friends at Bononi, where I have continued ever since. My fortune I have dedicated to the relief of the miserable, and the little services I render to all that call upon me for assistance makes my life glide away, if not in happiness, yet in peace and tranquillity; and the comfort I feel, in going once a year to visit the spot that contains the remains of my dear Victoria, makes life pass on imperceptibly. When I have shed a tear over her tomb, I hasten to that of my father, and this yearly tribute paid, I return again to my cell, and spend each revolving year in the same round of employments, as marked the preceeding one; and, if I can save one person from distress, I think myself happy.

"Thus, my dear friends, have I related the few events of my unhappy life. I should have esteemed it fortunate to

have seen the lady you mention. She was the relation in whose arms my dear Victoria breathed out her angelic soul; but, as that happiness was denied me, I submit obedient to my God, and the will of the Most High be done. In the regions of everlasting bliss, I shall behold her, and then pour out my soul in gratitude before her, for closing the eyes of my suffering angel, for which good action her spirit now rejoices in the beatitude of heaven."

At saying this, the countenance of the good man beamed with celestial transport, and seemed as anticipating the joys of heaven. The whole of the company, whose eyes were suffused with tears, thanked him for the recital he had given, and the prince instantly thought of something to divert his mind. He began to relate many little incidents, relative to his adventures at Paris

Paris and Vienna, and said he regarded it as fortunate that he had not, a twelve month before, visited England. Had he done so, he was certain he should not have enjoyed that peace he then did, as, by what he had heard of that famous city, it was not deficient in any kind of debauchery that was practised in any of the capitals upon the continent. He was happy when he reflected that he should now have the company of so good a man as father Theodore, who would not fail to warn him of errors which he would unavoidably fall into. Fitzallan remarked, that, in the company of father Gregory and father Theodore, a man might pass through life, without the least reproach.

Two days after this, they left Treves, and, at the request of father Theodore, made a short stay at Namur, but none at either Brussels, Ghent, or Bruges.

At Ostend they embarked for Dover, where, as soon as they landed, Michael, who had stood upon deck, waiting with anxious eye their near approach to where he called England's blessed shores, dropt upon his knees, and exclaimed: "Now the holy saints and martyrs be praised, we have got rid of the devils that have so long pursued us, and now, please your honors, I care not a potatoe for any of them."

The odd manner and expressions of the poor fellow, raised a loud laugh against him by the sailors; but he valued it not; he was once more in England and he was happy. Fitzallan was as pleased as his servant, and, in a transport of pleasure, embraced his Genevieve and welcomed her to a country, that was to bless him with her hand.

They

They rested one night at Dover, and the next morning set off for London, where, as soon as they arrived, they sent Michael to Mrs. Owen's, whom he found better than was expected. Her joy was unbounded, when she heard her brother was returned in safety. Michael beged to see the dear honies of children; they came to him; he took them alternately in his arms, blessed, prayed, and stammered over them. His joy was so great, that he could not properly articulate a word. "The dear sweet honies," and "heaven preserve them from going again to the burning mountain, and the palace of hell," was all that could be made out. At length he began to recover himself, and hasted away to his master, while Mrs. Owen was left admiring the honest simplicity of the poor fellow, who had evinced his love for her family in such an evident manner.

In a short time, Fitzallan was with her; though he had been led to expect his sister looked different from what she was when he last saw her, yet he did not think to find her so very much altered in person. Still her health was better than could be expected. She was in such agitation at seeing him, that he found it difficult to compose her. He asked after her mother; she was confined to her room; she had been very ill, but was then getting better. He took the little ones upon his knee; they were delighted to see their uncle, and he was equally pleased with them. They begged of him to go and see their grand mamma, who, they said, was apprised of his coming, and insisted upon getting up to receive him.

They led him to her; this poor afflicted lady embraced him with tears

of

of joy, as she looked upon him as the only hope she had on earth. Her tears relieved, in some measure, her oppressed and care-worn heart; and, when a little recovered, she begged Fitzallan to relate to her what he knew, relative to her son and daughter. He told her as much of their story as he thought requisite, but forbore to relate particulars. He was, he thought, justified in withholding every circumstance, that would, in any manner, add to her distress. He wished her to regard the loss of her son as a blessing, rather than a misfortune, and that of her daughter likewise, as both of them had ever been a source of the keenest distress. Their total disregard of hers and their father's commands had ever been the leading character of their lives.

He spoke all the consolation in his power, and staid with her a consider-

able time, and, before he left her, had the satisfaction of seeing her perfectly resigned. He exacted from her a promise that she would appear again in her family, and enjoy, in the company of her grand-children, those pleasures which their innocent years could not fail to afford her, and the additional society of a few valued friends, that would constantly be about her, now he was returned.

He told her and his sister of his intention to settle immediately, and that he should introduce the lady he had made choice of, as soon at it might be agreeable to them to see her; they appointed the next day. He then said, he should immediately order his steward to investigate Mrs. Owen's property, arrange the whole, and pay his debts, when they would be at liberty to reside in Wales, or in town, as it might

best suit them; and, as soon as that was completed, he should enter upon his own establishment. Mrs. Owen said she would readily give up her claims, and those of her children, upon the estates of her husband, till all demands were satisfied. This being settled, he left them in much better spirits than when he came.

He that day gave orders for the greatest dispatch to be made in his sister's affairs; in the mean time arranged every thing for himself; but, not being determined whether he should stay in England or Ireland, he hired only a ready furnished house. M. Vaucluse did the same; and, as the prince meant to remain under a travelling name, he accepted the offer of Fitzallan to be with him. Father Theodore did the like, and accompanied the prince.

cannot be happy, unless I follow it; therefore be my friend. My whole life shall be dedicated to make her blest, and you will bind me to you by the most sacred ties."

Fitzallan heard him out, without the least interruption; the surprise of such an offer was such, as wholly to put it out of his power to answer; but, at length, he recovered himself and was not backward in thanking the Prince for the honor he did them; but, at the same time, begged leave to remark a circumstance, that must have great weight against such an union, namely the difference of religion. His sister being a protestant would place an effectual bar against it, as he was certain she would not embrace the catholic. The Prince said, if no other obstacle should oppose their union, that could be easily obviated; he should leave her

in the full exercise of her religious tenets; and, as he was no bigot, he had not the smallest doubt of being happy on that head. His uncle, he said, was a man of the most liberal sentiments, and not inclined to condemn any one for differing from him in modes of faith; and whatever related to Mrs. Owen's children, it should be left intirely to her own discretion.

Fitzallan said his offers were noble; but still there was one thing more he should beg leave to observe, which was, in what manner his sister might be received by his highness' relations, as he could never bring himself to consent to her marriage with any man, however great, whose family might be inclined to regard her as a person unworthy of their alliance. "Every apprehension of that sort" replied the Prince "I can do away. I have no relation but the car-

dinal,

dinal, and the character of his eminence is too well known, for me to animadvert upon it. He admires beauty and virtue in the most humble situation; then how much more must he regard it in your sister, whose family I esteem not inferior to my own, and whose virtues far, very far, surpass those of any lady I have had the honor of being acquainted with, in Italy or Tuscany.

Fitzallan seeing he was determined to set aside all obstacles, promised to sound his sister upon the subject, and to suspend his marriage for a few days, till it should be known what Mrs Owen's sentiments were. The prince hastened, as soon as he had left Fitzallan, to father Theodore, to whom he imparted what had passed, and said it was his full intention to wed Mrs. Owen, if he could prevail upon her to accept his offers.

offers. This information gave the father the most heart-felt pleasure He was as great an admirer of Mrs. Owen as the prince. Her mild and pensive manners had attracted his warmest regard; he felt for her past misfortunes, and was greatly rejoiced to find that the man he so greatly valued, and whom he so much wished to see happily married to a lady deserving of his virtues, had made choice of one in every respect what he desired for him, and he had not the least doubt but the cardinal would fully approve it. He applauded him much for the offers he had made and most fervently prayed they might be accepted.

The approbation of father Theodore was what the prince earnestly desired, and, meeting it, he was happy. Yet he spent many hours in the most anxious suspense, and, like all lovers, fear-

ful of shadows that might intervene between him and happiness. At length, Fitzallan returned, pleasure sparkling in his eyes; he had seen his sister, and succeeded beyond his wishes. Mrs. Owen, whose whole soul towered above the narrow prejudices of her sex, had candidly confessed her approbation of the prince. She acknowledged without reserve, that she had regarded him, from the first moment of being introduced, as the only object she had ever seen, that she could entertain a tender esteem for; but, as his rank in life was so much superior to hers, and a native of another country, she had strove to conquer her rising admiration. The prince was nearly mad with joy; he embraced Fitzallan, called him his saviour, his dearest friend, his more than brother. Fitzallan seeing him so wild with the intelligence, began to blame himself for having communicated it so abruptly;

abruptly; but father Theodore entering the room, it gave a turn to his raptures. Full of his happiness, he informed him of it, and earnestly besought him to partake in it.

"That I do," said he, "most truly, and shall fervently pray for blessings on your union; for, a better choice you could have no where made, and may the Almighty God, who delights in the union of souls, make you as blessed as your virtues deserve!"

The prince was that day presented to Mrs Owen, and he desired that their friends the Vaucluses and father Gregory might be made acquainted with it. He begged Fitzallan would make his apologies to them, for urging a request to have the marriages delayed for a short time. The next day, father Gregory, who partook with sincerity

the happiness of his friends, waited on Mrs. Owen, to inform her of the ladies' acquiescence with the desire of Fitzallan. He congratulated her on the prospect of future bliss, and assured her the whole family rejoiced with the utmost sincerity. The young men, he said, would think nothing of their joy being delayed, if it would in any shape, contribute to her felicity; it would, therefore, depend upon her to say when his son and Fitzallan should become bridegrooms, as it was the wish of the prince to be united at the same time. She very frankly thanked the good man, for the kind interest he took in her concerns, and said nothing should be wanting, on her part, to contribute to the general felicity; but she had a wish to see her youngest brother in England first; and, as her mother was not quite recovered, she should perhaps have a desire to continue single

longer

longer than they might be willing to wait. She, therefore, begged that the weddings might not be postponed on her account; but the father said he was certain they would, as their happiness would be incomplete without her partaking in it.

She was about to reply, when a servant entered with a letter; it was from her brother Harry, to inform her of their arrival in England, and that, instead of going into the country, his guardian proposed spending some months in town, the house in the country being under repairs, which had been ordered to be done during their absence, and their unexpected return being so precipitate, it could not be in a situation to receive them. Miss Frances, he said, was as mad and as maggotty as ever, but he had turned, he said, topsy turvy all her fine schemes

of collecting medals and enjoyed the fun most prodigiously. He had told her, and made her believe, a thousand fantastic stories, to get her to return to England, and had, at last, prevailed upon her to come back, with a family they had been fortunate enough to form an ancquaintance with at Florence, and whom he should take an opportunity to present in the course of a few days.

Father Gregory was highly pleased with the circumstance, and thought, as one of the objections was done away, the other would soon follow. Fitzallan and the prince entered, as she finished the letter. The contents gave them the greatest pleasure. The prince, who was all life and gaity, humorously related to Mrs. Owen his adventures, and the delectable manner in which he got rid of his amour, for which he was under

der obligations to Harry. She was much entertained with his account.

She had, she said, when a child, always been led to fear Miss Frances; therefore, never had any predilection for her; and, as there was not much intimacy between Mrs. Akerworth's family and the elder Mrs. Owen's, she had not seen much of her; but, from what she had heard from several people she was led to believe her the same tyrant as ever This arose, she was informed, from a disappointment in love, at a very early period of life, having been deserted by a gentleman, to whom she was engaged on the very day appointed for her marriage; and, as no other offer was made her for many years, notwithstanding her large fortune, she had affected to despise the gentlemen, and attached herself to pursuits directly opposite to those which

gener-

generally engaged the attention of the ladies. She had always resided with Mrs. Akerworth, who was her aunt, and she being of a very indolent turn, Miss Frances had obtained the sole management of the house of her aunt and guardian. For some years past she had absolutely guided and directed them in every thing, and they had brought themselves to acquiesce in her every whim and fancy. For the last three years, she had been engaged in collecting natural curiosities; but having been persuaded that the study of medals was a far more elevated pursuit she had relinquished butterflies and stuffed birds, for every rusty coin she could pick up, and actually got together, in a short time, enough to load a horse, all which she really believes to be antique, though there could not possibly be so many in all Europe. Yet, possessed with this idea, she had persuaded

suaded herself that she only wanted a certain quantity, that could be obtained upon the continent, to make her's one of the first collections in the world, and to accomplish this arduous undertaking, she had prevailed upon her aunt to accompany Henry upon his travels, and the result of her expedition they knew.

Father Gregory said, he had observed that ladies, who had not been fortunate enough to marry, had always attached themselves to one particular hobbyhorsical pursuit. "In general," said he, "cards and scandal engross all their thoughts; but this lady's has the credit of being *nouvelle*. Henry, he said, sppeared to be a great torment to her. He always was, said Mrs. Owen, and it was surprising with what degree of patience she would bear with his mischievous pranks. They should

expect to see her soon, and hear all her complaints against him, which she durst say would not be a few. Her mother, said she, could never bear her; but she would not now despair of reconciling all parties.

Fitzallan and father Gregory went to pay their respects to Mrs. Owen senior, whom they informed of what had passed respecting the prince and her daughter-in-law. The old lady could scarcely believe it real; but, when persuaded of it, she burst into tears of joy, and said if any thing could make her forget her griefs, it was the pleasure they had imparted; but she hoped they would not take her dear little grandchildren from her. Fitzallan assured her they would not. They were in the room when their uncle and the father entered; they paid particular attention to the discourse, and, when their uncle

asked them whether they should like the prince for a papa? They said, yes indeed, they should; for, he would be good and kind to their mamma and grand-mamma.

Mrs. Owen asked whether the prince meant to stay in England after his marriage. Father Gregory answered, he did not know for any certainty. "Well," said she, "tell them both, that if any thing could restore my peace, it would be to see them united." This pleased both the gentlemen and they soon after took their leave, and hastened to Mrs. Owen and the prince, to whom they related the discourse with her mother. The good father, who knew the wishes of his son and Fitzallan, said, "Now madam, both your obstacles of this morning are removed, and I must beg that you will permit me to plead the cause of love, and I

will wait upon you to morrow morning, to make a proposal." "I shall be at home," said she smiling, "to receive you."

The gentlemen soon after departed, to visit Harry and Miss Frances. She recved them with a great deal of state, yet seemed flattered at their early attention. To the prince she was reserved, but said she fancied the air of England agreed with his highness vastly, as he looked much better, she thought, than when he left Turin. "Love, madam," said Fitzallan, "can do wonders. The prince is shortly to become a benedict." "A benedict!" exclaimed Miss Frances, "and in England too? Pray, who is the mighty fair one that has wrought such miracles in so short a time?" "One that you well know, or, at least, did a few years ago; but who it is must at present be a secret," said Fitzallan; "but

we

we shall request your company as bride's maid. You were so polite at Turin, that I am led to hope you will not deny us the favor here." "A pretty fancy truly," said she, "to ask me to a ceremony, that may, like the other, involve me in a thousand disasters."

The prince was about to apologize, but she stopt him short, saying his apologies would have no weight with her. She had been taught better than to listen to the language of a person who had treated her so rudely. His highness bowed, but did not attempt to speak. Mr. and Mrs. Akerworth were now enquired after. Might they be permitted to pay their respects to them? No, she said; they were, as usual, much fatigued, and should see no one for two or three days. They observing Miss Frances was disposed to be cross, took their leave, desiring

Harry would come to Fitzallan's. "Ay, ay," said she, "I will have him sent, and I positively hope he will stay among you; for, he is not fit company for any one else. He has told me a thousand falsities; I shall believe in future nothing that he says. I am certain I have lost, through his nonsense, the purchase of the second brass of *manlia scantilla*, another of *domitian*, and one of *piscennius niger*, and several others, that were unique; some very rare gems of the first masters, and a bust dug up at Pompeii, that has been brought to England, and absolutely adored by every one. All those hopes I have sustained through his folly; and now to complete my vexation, you come to desire my company to a ceremony, that is to involve me in new perplexities. Positively, I think all the men and boys are gone mad, and want me to join them in their fooleries; but, go your ways,

ways, I will not be made a fool of again, that you may be assured." The gentlemen bowed and took their leave.

In a few minutes after their return home, Harry entered. "Welcome to England!" said he. "I find you have seen the dear, the delectable Miss Frances, whom you have most monstrously offended, by telling her your highness was going to be married. In the name of the kind God, how could you do so? surely it was cruel, when you must be convinced the fair nymph had a violent *penchant* for you herself. Ah *Mon Dieu!* what a charming thing it is to be handsome! here have I, poor devil, been running from England to France, from France to Tuscany, and from Tuscany to England, without having one dear sweet gentle kind captivating *old* maid falling in love with me. Zounds! your highness must in-

struct me in the art of pleasing, or I shall hang myself for mere vexation."

The prince laughed at his lively folly, aud asked him how he could expect him to be constant to Miss Frances, when she had made choice of another possessing more charms and more constancy. "True," said Harry; "I had forgot that rival of yours; she has absolutely out stept me in contrivance, by making her believe that he should follow her to England, and, in the face of the church, bid you defiance." "Surely," said Fitzallan, "she could not be such a fool." "Upon my honor," said he, "it is a fact, and by this precious maneuvre, I got her to return to England, saying, that a very illustrious nobleman had sent over a vast collection of every thing she wanted, to be disposed of there, he having, as they say, out run the constable, and wisely thought

thought he could sell his rarieties to far greater advantage, in a country where true judges were scarce, than in that where they rise in plenty. Full of this, and a desire to be revenged, in the face of the world, of her inconstant swain, I accomplished my design; the old folks acquisced without asking any question. So here I am much at all your services."

The Macdonalds were asked after. They were well, he said, and had been much diverted with Miss Frances's oddities. Fitzallan then infomed him of the arrangements they were making, and of the happy fate which awaited his sister, and the hope he had that the three weddings would be together. Harry looked grave for some minutes, then started up and exclaimed; "Now, upon my conscience, this is too much. You ought, upon my soul, to let me into

the secret, that I may not be left, like a hanged dog, in the lurch. How unmerciful this is! Three weddings before and then I was left out; and now, here are three more, and I cannot make a fourth. The devil take me, if I don't try for it. I'll go home and kick up such a row with that fair spinster, as shall make the old Jockey consent to my being put in the way of getting an heir to the family, and shoving out the lap dogs. I'll set about it straight. I'll not be left single, while all the rest are double, and so good morning to you," and away he ran, leaving them in amazement, not doubting but he would invent something or other to accomplish his design.

Fitzallan said it was his wish to have all parties dine with him, the second day from that. In the mean time, he would desire the good offices of father Gregory

Gregory and father Theodore, to persuade his sister to appoint an early day for the marriage, as it would depend upon her entirely. The fathers promised not to be remiss. Tickets of invitation for their friends were ordered by Fitzallan to be sent immediately; and, as they were to be confined to their own society, he did not doubt of the invitations being accepted, though on so short a notice. The prince and he then went to give directions, relative to marriage writings, jointures, and so forth, which were to be expedited as fast as possible. Fitzallan proposed the weddings should be private, as he thought the ladies would like it best.

The next morning, the steward came with the final arrangements of Owen's affairs, which he made his sister acquainted with, and she found, by the sale of

one estate, and putting the others to trust for five years, the whole would be cleared of every incumbrance, and a very handsome fortune would then come to her children, and Mrs. Owen senior, by this arrangement, would be made happy. He took an opportunity of pleading for the prince, and told her it was his highness' intention, if she approved of it, to live half the year in England, and the other half at Bononi. She bid her brother assure him, that, whatever he should propose, she was ready to acquiesce in, having too good an opinion of his honor to suppose he would require any thing that she ought not to assent to. Her brother told her he should see every thing settled with the prince, relative to her future establishment with him, in such a manner as she should have no occasion to complain of, as it was the intention of his highness not only to settle the whole

of

of her own fortune upon her and the children, but to add a considerable yearly sum to it. She was very much affected at this mark of his generosity and nobleness of soul, and desired her brother to make her acknowledgements for it, promising to be of the party the next day.

Before he went, the ladies Vaucluse were announced. They had come to pay a morning visit to Mrs. Owen, and to have some chat about dresses, &c. Madame Vaucluse had determined to be the prince's advocate, and, accordingly, by indirect means, led the conversation to that point, and so wisely conducted her discourse, that she, at last, prevailed upon Mrs. Owen to consent to name that day three weeks, for the happy one; but she desired it might be wholly private. This was approved of by all parties, and Fitzallan

set

set off with the news to the prince. This arrangement made a reasonable being of him, or rather, an unreasonable one; for, he became as lively and joyous as the mischievous Henry.

The next day, about an hour before dinner, when Fitzallan and the prince were dressing, Harry entered, in a violent hurry, his brother's dressing room, and exclaimed: "As I hope to be saved, Ned, she is coming, and, if you don't shelter me, I shall have my ears pulled, that's certain." A violent rapping was heard at the door, and, in a minute, entered Miss Frances, with all the appearance of rage and resentment. Michael dropped the curling tongs, and stuck the comb into his master's head, with such force, as to make him jump up with pain.

"What the devil are you about, Michael?"

Michael?" he cried. "Don't ask," said Miss Frances, who that moment entered, "what that great Irish hottentot is about, but ask what your good-for-nothing brother is doing. A little insolent, worthless, insignificant puppy! "Arrah! by Jasus!" said Michael, "and upon my soul, but you are a little too flippant of your tongue., for all you are a lady, and so you are; and, was I his honor, I would turn you topsy turvy down stairs, and so I wou'd." "You turn me down stairs? you Irish bog-trotter!" said the lady. "How can you, Mr. Fitzallan, keep such a vulgar beast about you? Every gentleman has a proper degree of pride belonging to him, and, instead of having such a scoundrel as this, keeps a well behaved foreigner."

Michael was going to reply, when Fitzallan who had been so much surprised

prised as to prevent his speaking, now advanced, and desired her to be seated, and tell him what she had to complain of. "I'll not set down, no not I. I came to demand of that young monkey, how he could dare to enter my presence, after he had imposed upon me in so gross a manner." "What is the meaning of all this?" said Fitzallan, turning to Harry. "In what have you offended this lady?" "In nothing at all, as I hope to be saved; not intentionally I declare upon my honor." "Tis false," said she, "very false; he has imposed upon me, and this boar of a fellow of your's aided and abetted him." "Now, by holy St. Patrick!" said Michael, "that is a bouncer. I never aided and abetted his honor in any thing, but fetching home them great stone faces that I carried to this lady, an please your honor."

"Silence,

"Silence, booby," cried the enraged Miss Frances, "and let me be heard. "Yesterday, he came to me, in the most violent hurry imaginable, and said he had seen two busts, of the most exquisite workmanship, which had been dug up at Herculanum. They were the property of a private gentleman, whom he had the good fortune to be intimate with, when at Paris; and, as the gentleman was wholly indifferent about such things, if I would accept of them from him, he would undertake to purchase them; for, he was certain they were originals. I was quite pleased at the opportunity of possessing such rare models of antiquity, and told him he would oblige me much, if he would procure them. He set off immediately to do it, and returned in about two hours, saying, he had luckily succeeded, and I should have them sent home in the evening. He refused

to let me pay for them ; but, if I would do him a good office, he should think himself amply repaid, and would make it his study to collect whatever his friend and himself could hear of, that was antique. I asked him what it was he wished me to do for him. He said it was that I would use my interest with his guardian, to consent to his being united to Miss Macdonald, at the same time that you were to Miss Vaucluse. Though the request appeared preposterous, yet I consented to it, and actually did succeed with Mr. Akerworth and my aunt ; and, in consequence of that, they sent to the Macdonalds, to see them this morning, previous to our coming here.

" They came, about two hours since, and, would you believe it, while Mr. Macdonald was engaged with the old people, to the door comes a vulgar fel-

low

low of a broker, desiring to speak with the gentleman who bought two heads yesterday. I was passing from the parlor to the stairs at the time. Thinking it was the person to whom the busts belonged, I ordered the servant to desire him to walk in, and I would speak to him. He did, and, to my utter amazement, told me he was the man that sold Harry the busts, and that he kept a broker's shop in Brewers Street, and was come to inform him that he could procure a Venus and a Minerva for him of the same maker's.

"I heard the man out; but, thinking he was mad, or had mistaken the house, I was going up stairs, without saying any thing more, when in bounced that miscreant; but, seeing the broker, he was struck all of a-heap. 'What do you want?' said he turning to the man. 'I was come, sir, said he, to inform

your

your honor that I can procure you a Venus and a Minerva, and something else of the same maker's as the heads you brought yesterday! 'What heads do you mean?' said he to the man, winking to him at the same time. 'Ah! I'll tell you,' said I, 'what heads he means; pray, look here, friend; are those the same? pointing to the busts that stood on the side-board in the parlor. 'Yes, madam,' answered he, 'his honor gave me three guineas for them, and, indeed, they are very cheap; for, I have been told they are copies of Roubillac.' The moment the man said this, that graceless rascal burst out a laughing, and ran precipitately out of the house. Seeing I had been so grossly imposed on, I hastened after him, and I am come here to insist upon it that you call this insolent imposing impertinent to an account, for thus daring to insult me, and that good-

for-

for-nothing booby of your's was the monkey that brought them home from the broker's. Now, sir, have I not cause to be offended?"

"Indeed, madam, you have," said Fitzallan, who could hardly suppress a laugh, to see the whimsical appearance of his brother, and the furious looks of Miss Frances, who seemed very much inclined to advance to Harry, and lug his ears for him; but Fitzallan made use of all the rhetoric he was master of to reconcile them. Michael, it was evident, did not much relish the language of pacification his master made use of; he rather wished to have the dear lady turned over to him, as he wanted to resent the word hottentot, and, all the while Fitzallan was endeavouring to make peace, he was grumbling, and every now and then whispering Harry to let him speak, and he'd soon send her off. At last,

his master happened to hit upon something, that admitted of a possibility that the busts might be subjects of admiration, as many a valuable curiosity had been picked up at a broker's, and he would undertake to have their value ascertained by fathers Theodore and Gregory, who were well acquainted with the arts, and the prince, whose refined taste every one allowed, would not fail to decide justly upon it. He, therefore, begged she would not think of returning, but permit him to send for the busts there, and let the gentlemen estimate their merits; and, if they were found worthy of her notice, he hoped she would pardon his brother, who, he was sure, did not mean to affront her.

This reasoning had the desired effect; a servant was sent to fetch the subjects of dispute, and she consented to stay dinner,

dinner, as she said she was wholly careless about her dress, since the young jackanapes had so discomposed her. She left Fitzallan to finish dressing, while she amused herself in the library. When she was gone, he asked Harry how he could think of such a scheme. "Why, now," said he, "would not you have done the same, if such an idea had entered your head, if by that and no other means, you could obtain the hand of your adored Genevieve?" "I don't know," returned Edward, "but I might."

"Well then, don't blame me; for, who the devil should have thought of the blundering fellow's coming to me, and that she should be so devilishly in the way, at the time, to see him? I hugged myself in security, and, for that reason, got Michael to bring them home, not chusing to trust one of your

own

own fellows, lest it should come out, and how the booby found out where I lived, I don't know."

"Ah, an, please your honor," said Michael, "that was my fault; I found them so confounded heavy, that the man offered to help me home with them, and so he did, and I persuaded him to let your honor know when he had any more; for, I thought it would do well to divert the old lady; for, your honor knows she don't like me, and, by the holy St. Patrick, there is no love lost."

When the busts were brought, they were taken into the library; the gentlemen were desired to announce their opinion, and they gave it unanimously, that they were worthy of her notice. This put her quite in spirits, and, when the company assembled, she joined the ladies with a great degree of consequence,

quence, assuring them she was pleased to hear of their approaching happiness; but her own, she said, was unavoidably postponed for some little time, or else she certainly would have made one of the happy pairs, at the same time.

The evening was spent in festivity that pleased every one; each thought his own choice the best. The next day Mr. Macdonald informed Fitzallan that he had given his consent to his daughter's marriage with his brother Henry, and as soon as the marriage writings were ready, he should have no objection to see them united, at the same time that he received the hand of Miss Vaucluse. The only reason he had to urge against it, was his not being of age; but, as the intervening period was so short, he had been brought to wave that objection, and trusted they would be happy; though Harry was

rather a little in the rhodomantade, he flattered himself that would soon subside.

Soon after he was gone, Harry entered, full of his good fortune, and positively declared he should love busts as long as he lived; and, if his first child was a boy, he would have him educated to be the first statuary in the world, if instructions could make him one. "Why, my busts bought at a broker's," said he, "have done me as much good as ever pigmalion's did him. Ah Mon Dieu! whenever I see the dear delectable marble, I shall not fail to exclaim with the enamoured artist:

"Yes, dear enchanting glory of my art,
Life of my life, and partner of my heart,
Whose merit could the wond'ring gods incline,
To let thee live and let me call *her* mine;
To thee alone I here my soul bestow,
And all my future life from thee shall flow.

"See,

"See, Ned, what wonders marble can do, when placed in proper hands. Ah! my dear Mary, thou too must be grateful, whenever they fine eyes shall glance across them."

He was running on in this manner, when the fathers Theodore and Gregory entered, and a serious conversation took place between them, on the duties they were about to enter upon. Father Gregory earnestly besought them to let Owen's example be ever before them, as no other state was so miserable as the married one, entered into without proper consideration, and reciprocal love.

Henry, who did not want virtue or good sense, was pleased with what the good man had said, and promised to be every thing his friends could desire; and, as every couple would be united agreeably

agreeably to their wishes, and none were influenced by rank or fortune, they concluded none ever bid fairer for felicity.

Father Gregory said, he had seen Mrs. Owen the elder, who was so pleased with the prince, that she declared she should spend the whole of her time with them; and, as her daughter was in America,, with her husband, and she had no other ties but Mrs. Owen and her children, she should always accompany them to Italy, as long as her age and infirmities would admit.

At the expiration of the three weeks the four couple went, nothing loth, to the altar of Hymen. Miss Frances was vainly led to expect in a few months the arrival of her dear swain, when she said she also should join the happy pairs.

The

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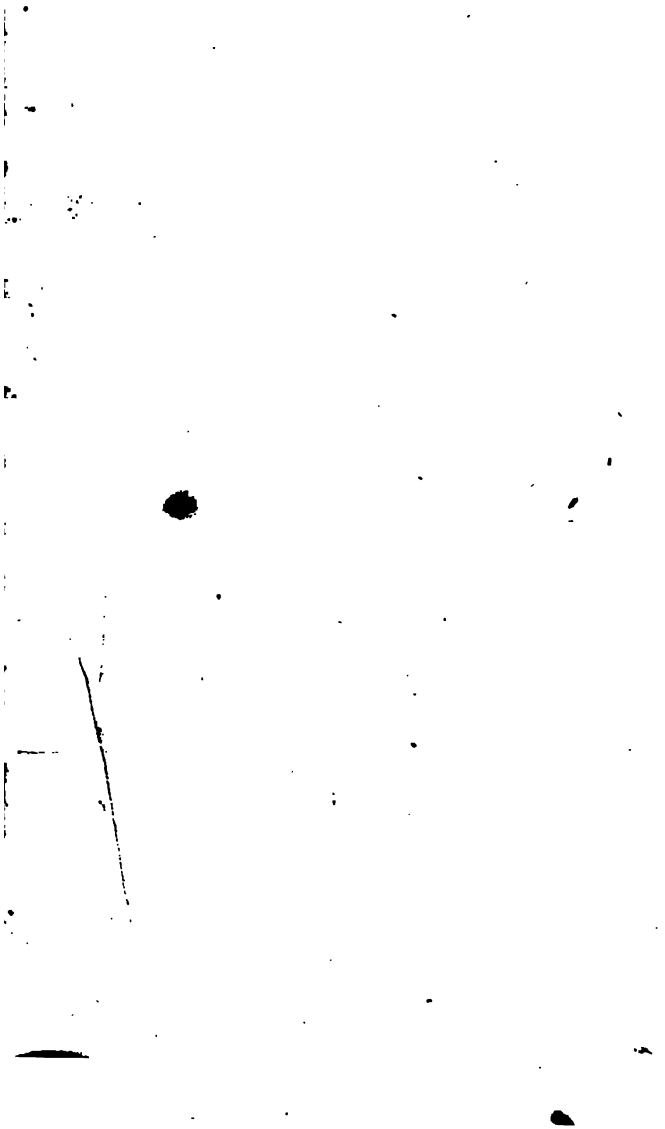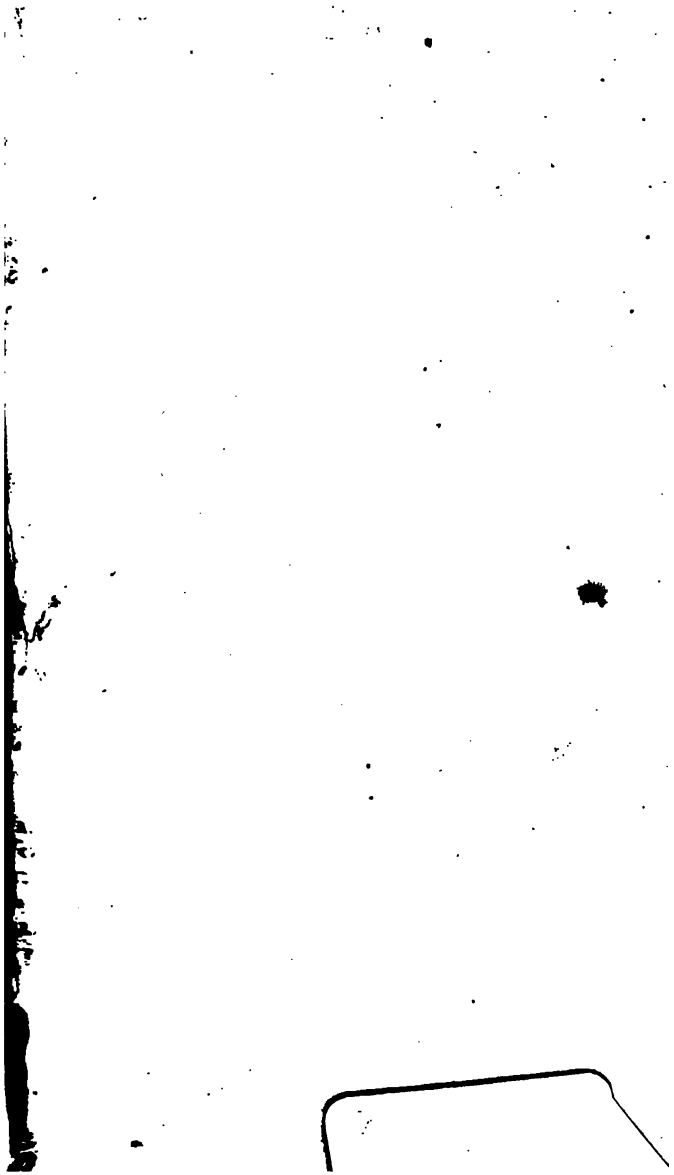
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